KaikaNeko Manga
When two of the best get together...

WHISTLE!

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Daisuke Higuchi

volume 15

WHISTLE!

Vol. 15

ONE

Story and Art by

Daisuke Higuchi

STORY

TO REALIZE HIS DREAM, SHŌ KAZAMATSURI, A BENCHWARMER AT SOCCER POWERHOUSE MUSASHINOMORI, TRANSFERRED TO JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SO HE COULD PLAY THE GAME HE LOVES.

JOSUI'S SOCCER TEAM WAS A JOKE UNTIL SOUJŪ MATSUSHITA, A FORMER JAPAN LEAGUE PLAYER, TOOK ON THE COACHING DUTIES. UNDER MATSUSHITA'S GUIDANCE, THE TEAM HAS BECOME A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH. THEY BLASTED THROUGH THE DISTRICT PRIMARY TOURNAMENT, AND NOW THEY ARE DETERMINED TO ADVANCE THROUGH THE MAIN TOURNAMENT.

MEANWHILE, SHŌ, TATSUYA AND DAICHI ARE INVITED TO THE TRAINING CAMP FOR THE TOKYO SELECT TEAM. ON THE LAST DAY OF CAMP, THE TOP PLAYERS HAVE GATHERED FOR A RED VS. WHITE MATCH TO DETERMINE THE FINAL TEAM ROSTER. NOW SHŌ MUST CALL UPON ALL HIS ENERGY AND SKILL...SO HE CAN MAKE THE FINAL CUT!

CHARACTERS

SHŌ KAZAMATSURI

- JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER TEAM
- FORWARD

AKIRA SAIONJI

TSUBASA SHIINA

TATSUYA MIZUNO

- JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER TEAM
- MIDFIELDER

TAKASHI NARUMI

- MEISEI JUNIOR HIGH
- FORWARD

TAKI SUGIHARA

- TAKANAWA JUNIOR HIGH
- MIDFIELDER

DAICHI FUWA

- JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER TEAM
- KEEPER

WHISTLE!

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GOOD PASSER.
HE SENT IT JUST SHY OF WHERE THE OPPONENT COULD STEAL IT.
HE EXPECTED SHŌ TO CATCH UP.
TAKI INTENTIONALLY DROPPED IT IN FRONT OF THE OPPONENT.

OR...?
BUT IS IT BECAUSE TAKI'S PASS WAS GOOD?

SL
IP
GAAH!
FLOP
FROM HERE...
...THE REST IS UP TO ME.

WHA ..!
SHŌ
33
adidas
ON
STAGE.126 The Trick Revealed
WHERE'D HE COME FROM?
31
adidas

THO
FU
M
P
OH
21

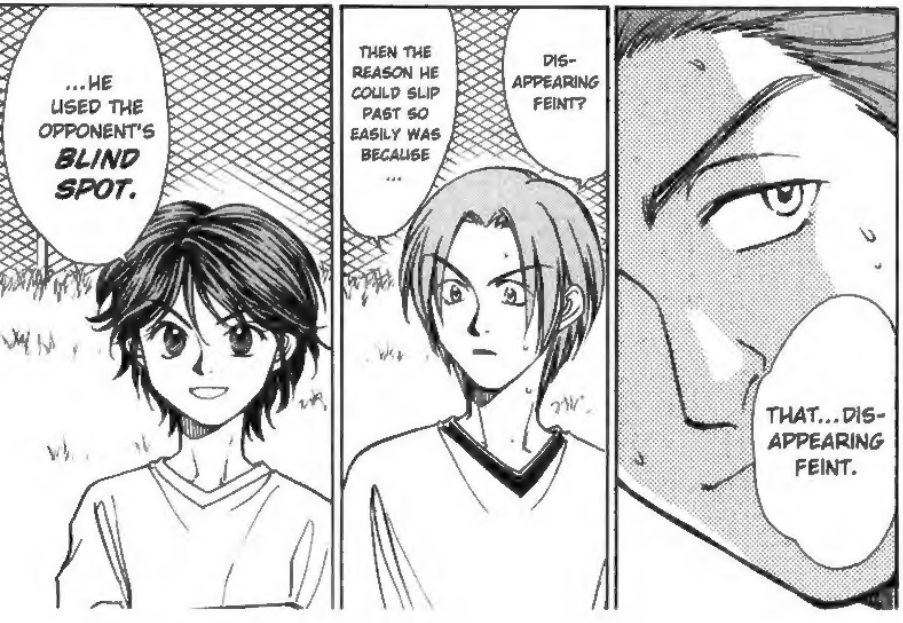
THEY COLLIDED?!
!
WHU
!
MP
33
20
RYO-
ICHI!
21

20
31
KEI-SUKE!
JUST AS I THOUGHT.
TWEE
I WON'T LET YOU DO...
... WHAT-EVER YOU WANT FOREVER, MIDGET.
!

GOAL!
WUSH
B FINALLY TIED IT UP WITH A?!
3 TO 3!
adidas
THEY'VE COLLIDED, AND THAT MEANS ...
BESIDES, THAT TWERP IS NOW SETTING UP GOALS.
20
17
THREE GOALS IN 10 MINUTES AFTER THE SECOND HALF STARTED ...
THAT STRIKER IS THE KEY! THERE'S NO DOUBT HE'S CONTROLLING THE FLOW OF THE GAME.

THAT'S RIGHT. KEEP IT UP!

NOW THAT HE'S MARKED, HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MAKE THAT MOVE AGAIN.
THE MIDGET HURT US BECAUSE WE IGNORED HIM AND LET HIM RUN FREE UNTIL NOW.


...HE USED THE OPPONENT'S BLIND SPOT.
THEN THE REASON HE COULD SLIP PAST SO EASILY WAS BECAUSE ...
DIS-APPEARING FEINT?
THAT...DIS-APPEARING FEINT.

WOOSH
adidas

I HOPE YOU'RE CALLED "VIPER" FOR A REASON.
SHOW US THE TRUE NATURE OF A VIPER.
I GUESS THEY FINALLY NOTICED HIM.

WHOOOOOOOSH
WHOOSH
33

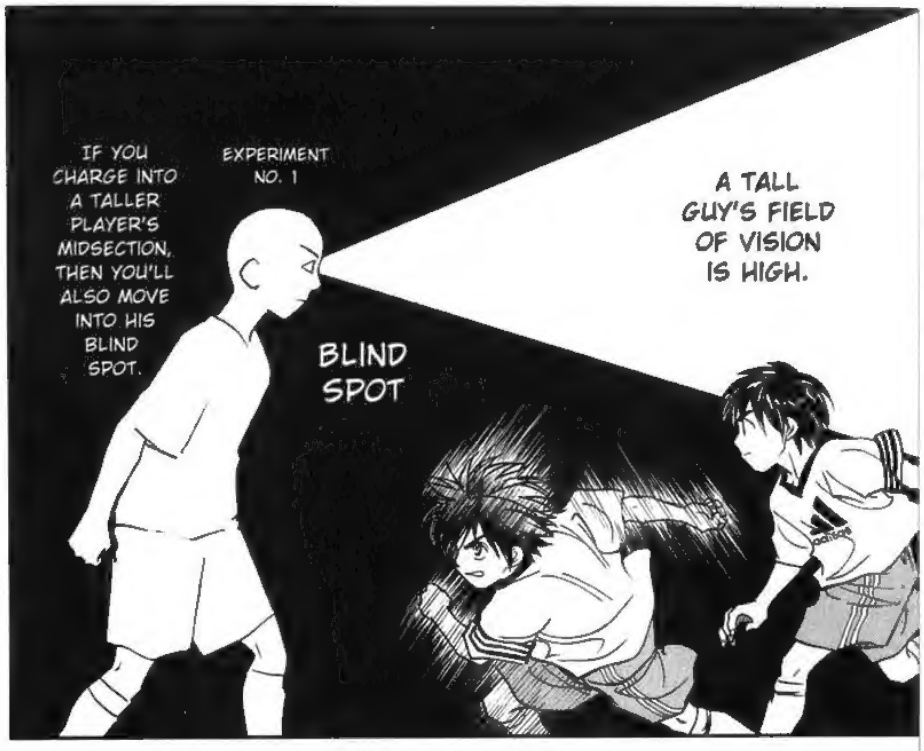
IT'S EASY TO DESCRIBE IT.
BUT THE TIMING IS DIFFICULT.

FROM THE TRICKED PLAYER'S POINT OF VIEW, IT LOOKS AS IF SHŌ VANISHED FOR A MOMENT.
WHISH
POOF

WHEN DID HE LEARN SUCH A TECHNIQUE ..?
A GAME OF TAG.

LAST NIGHT? SO IT'S JUST A BORROWED TRICK...
DON'T WORRY. EVEN A BORROWED BLADE...

WE PLAYED IT WITH HIM LAST NIGHT.
HE PICKED IT UP FAST.
USED


IF YOU CHARGE INTO A TALLER PLAYER'S MIDSECTION, THEN YOU'LL ALSO MOVE INTO HIS BLIND SPOT.
EXPERIMENT NO. 1
A TALL GUY'S FIELD OF VISION IS HIGH.
BLIND SPOT

...AND PASS BY THE OPPONENT BEFORE HE CAN CATCH UP!
...MAKE A SHARP TURN...
THEN ...

TAKI IS DRIB-BLING ?!
WHAT!
LOOKING FOR THE PASS, HUH?!
GOTTA SHAKE HIM OFF!
YOU WON'T SLIP AWAY!

...WHEN SHARPENED MANY TIMES...
... BECOMES LIKE A RAZOR.
HUFF
HUFF

HE'S FAST!!
WHA ..?
33
QUICKNESS ISN'T THE ONLY ADVANTAGE TO BEING SMALL.
...EQUALS ...
SMALL-NESS ...
...LIGHT-NESS AND BALANCE.
...GOING?
URK.
STILL...

VOOSH
VOOSH
SUCH AN OBVIOUS FEINT.
IT'S USE-LESS.
WHI ISH
WHI ISH
33

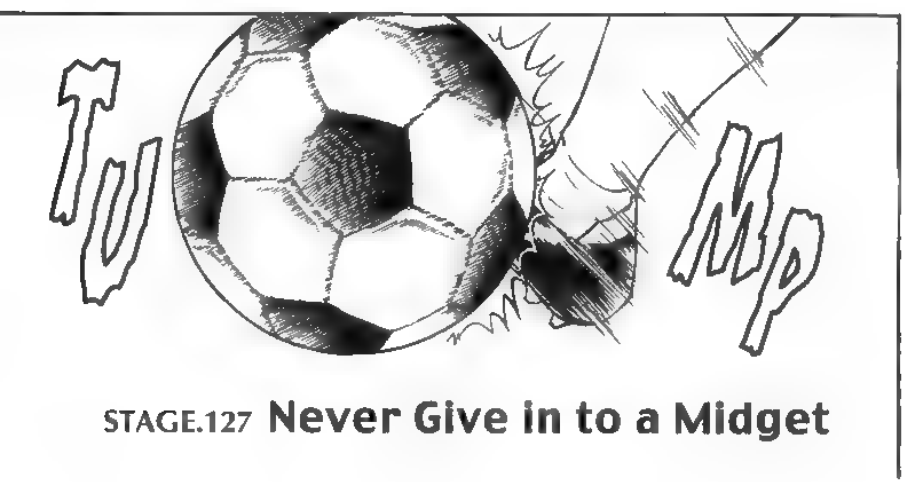
...AT THE RIGHT MOMENT ...
... INCREDIBLE AGILITY!

MY BODY...
...UP.
...CAN'T CATCH...
WHICH EQUALS ...

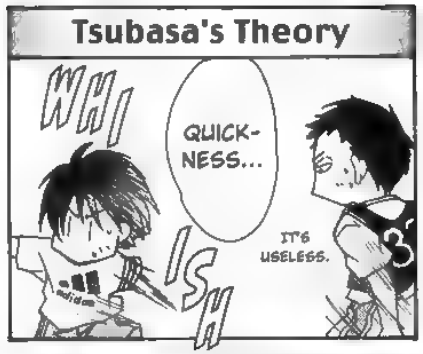
IT'S IN A TRICKY SPOT.
WILL IT BE A OR B WHO REACHES THE BALL FIRST?
IN THE 50-METER SPRINT... IT'S TRUE HE CAME IN LAST.
I BET IT'S A. SHŌ IS SLOW AFTER ALL.
THAT PUNK ...
. BUT HE'S THE BEST WHEN IT COMES TO INSTANTANEOUS, EXPLOSIVE POWER.
50
20
0
BUT HE WAS THE FASTEST THROUGH THE FIRST 20 METERS
HE STILL DOES NOT HAVE THE MUSCLE POWER TO MAINTAIN THAT SPEED FOR 50 METERS...

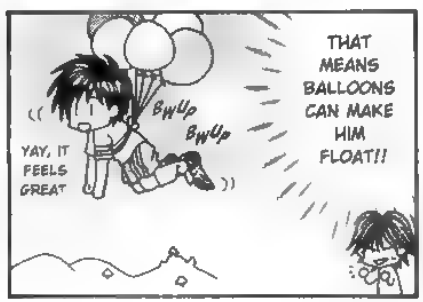
SEEING THAT...
HE SHOOK OFF HIS MARK!
...TAK! MAKES THE PASS.
BOOT
DEFENDERS ARE RUSHING FOR IT, TOO!
BUT IT WON'T GO UNCONTESTED ..

IT'S A WEAPON THAT SUITS SHŌ.
HE'S ABOUT TO MAKE IT HIS OWN.
BECAUSE HIS BODY IS SMALL, HE CAN PLAY HIS TRUMP CARD NOW.
16

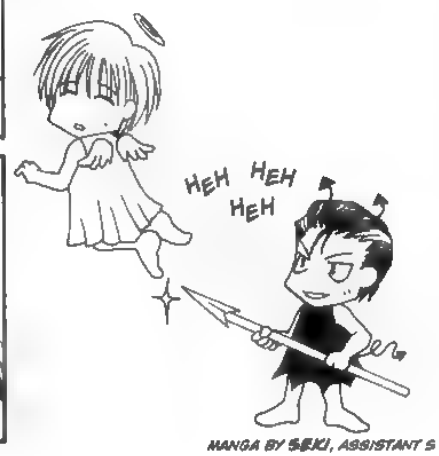


STAGE.127 **Never Give in to a Midget**





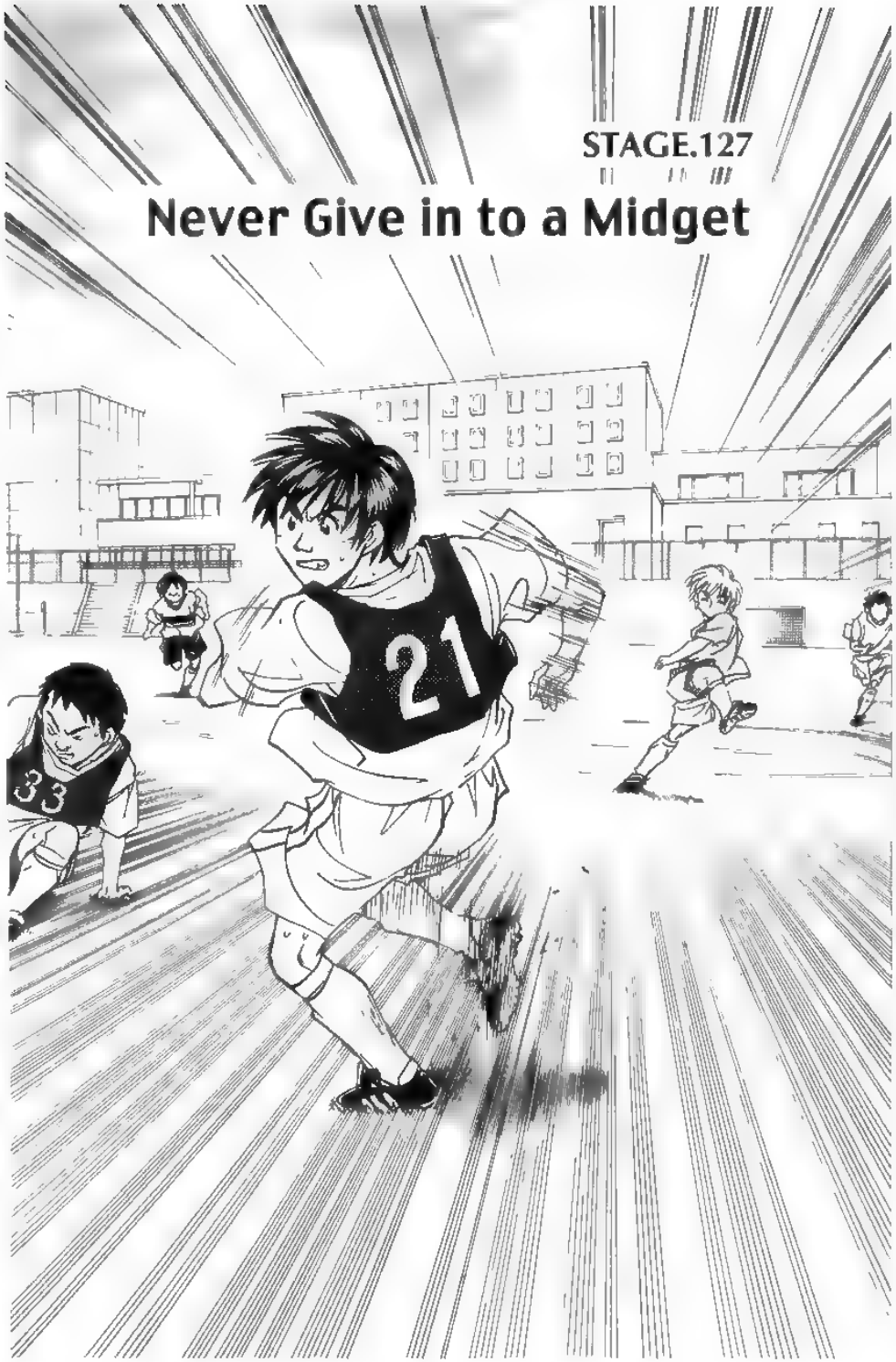
WEE-STLE! THEATRE !!



MANGA BY SEKI, ASSISTANT S

STAGE.127

Never Give in to a Midget



YOU WON'T PASS ME!
HE'S COMING !!
HE'S IN A CROUCH!
RIGHT? LEFT?
VOOP
adidas

VOOM

IT WENT THROUGH HIS LEGS !!
THOO
NEITHER ?!
NO
HP

GOOOOAL!!

WHOO
HUMPH
SH

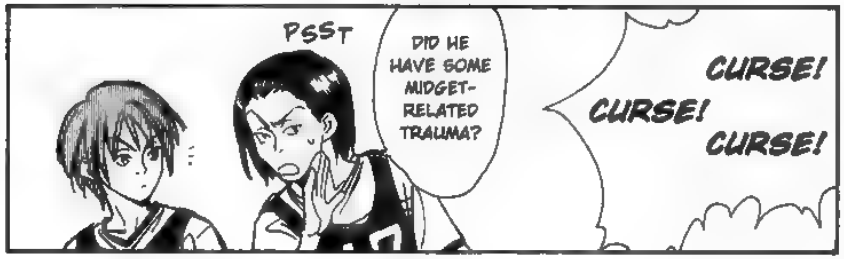
READ THIS WAY
GRIP
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
ARRGH!
SHEESH!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
adidas
I
THAT LITTLE GUY HAS SOME GOOD MOVES.

YOU'LL HAVE TO STRETCH YOUR NECK LIKE A TURTLE TO REACH MY BEST PASSES.
LISTEN.
I'M DIFFERENT FROM KAZUMA.
DON'T YOU DARE SEND ME ONE OF YOUR WIMPY PASSES.

HEH.

FOR ME, THEY'RE A CURSE. A CURSE!
THAT'S WHY I HATE MIDGETS!


PSST
DID HE HAVE SOME MIDGET-RELATED TRAUMA?
CURSE!
CURSE!
CURSE!

LET'S GET BACK IN THE GAME!
OUCH!

WHEN TAKASHI WAS IN THE FIRST GRADE, A SHORT CLASSMATE TOOK HIS GIRL FROM HIM, AND EVER SINCE, HE HATES SHORTIES.
APPARENTLY, THE GIRL SAID SHE'S SCARED OF TALL GUYS.
HOW STUPID.

A LONG CROSS DOWN THE FIELD!!
GO-SUKE!
ROKU-SUKE!
WATCH OUT!

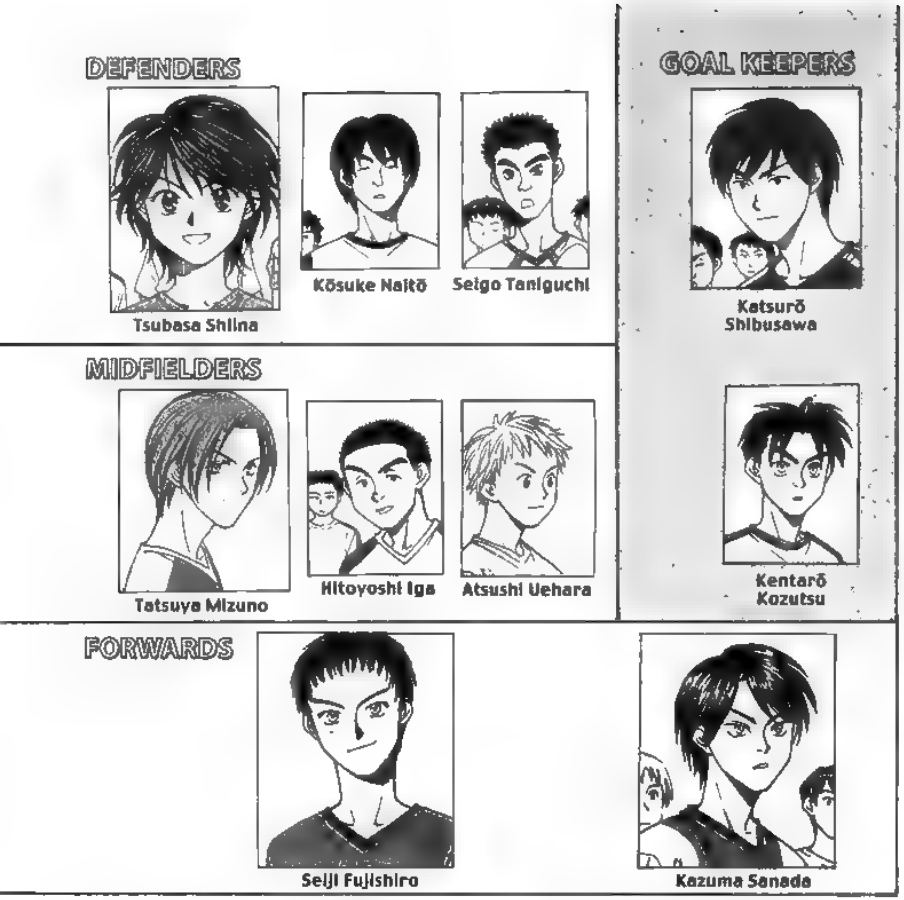
THE KEEPER SENDS IT TO THE SIDE.
MAKING USE OF A POWERFUL STRIKER IS A GOOD WAY TO SHOW MY PASSING SKILLS.
RED RESTARTS AND RETURNS THE BALL TO THE GOAL KEEPER.
IF THAT'S THE CASE ...
...THEN SEE IF YOU CAN DO THIS...!
FOOM
...TAKI!
WHERE WILL HE PUT THE BALL?!

20
20
WHOO-
SH

IT'S TAKA-SHI!
SH
DOM
CRUN
CH

20

DAI-
CHI!
33
!
WHAT
?!



Tokyo Junior High Select Team Official Members

AS FOR THE 10 REMAINING SPOTS: THE COACHES WILL SELECT THREE MORE DEFENDERS, FIVE MORE MIDFIELDERS, AND TWO MORE FORWARDS.
THE 10 PLAYERS LISTED ABOVE HAVE ALREADY BEEN DETERMINED.
WILL SHŌ BE ONE OF THE TWO SELECTED FROM THE FIVE REMAINING FORWARDS?

STAGE.128
Attacking in Waves

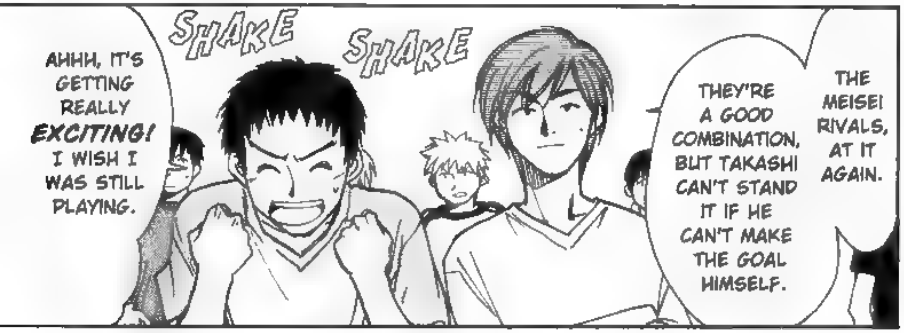
WHISTLE!™

SQU
EEZE
MOVE!
SCH
20
DAI-
CHI!

BOW
IT'S SHI-TARA!

SWOOP
!
HE WON THE SHOW-DOWN AGAINST TAKASHI!

♪
YOU!
DON'T KEEP STEALING MY SHOT EVERY TIME!


SHAKE
SHAKE
AHHH, IT'S GETTING REALLY EXCITING! I WISH I WAS STILL PLAYING.
THEY'RE A GOOD COMBINATION, BUT TAKASHI CAN'T STAND IT IF HE CAN'T MAKE THE GOAL HIMSELF.
THE MEISEI RIVALS, AT IT AGAIN.

HMM.
FOR SHŌ, WHAT HE DOES NEXT IS CRUCIAL.
HE'S GREAT AT FIRING UP OTHER PLAYERS, BUT HE'S COMPETING FOR A SINGLE SPOT RIGHT NOW.
FOR BOTH HIS TEAMMATES AND HIS OPPONENTS ...
SHŌ'S EXCELLENT PLAY LIT THE FIRE.

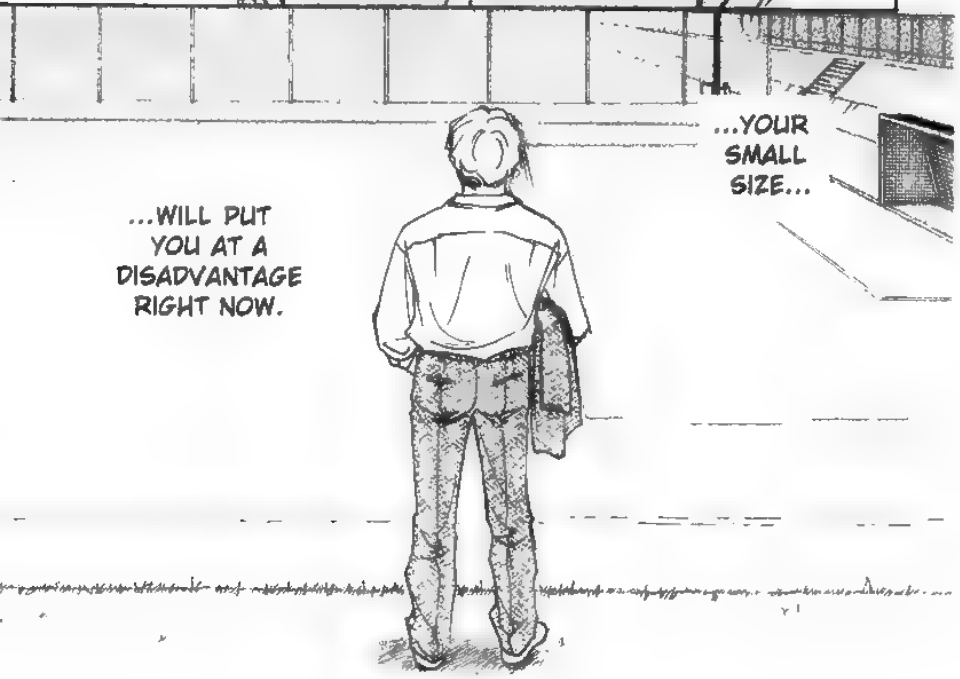
FOOSH
GOAL!
WHAT GREAT POSITIONING, READING WHERE THE BALL WOULD POP OUT.

COME TO THINK OF IT, I FORGOT THERE WAS ONE MORE PERSON.
OOPS.

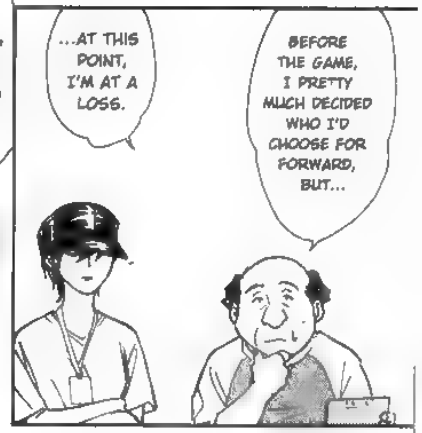
SL
GYAAA!
AM
4 TO 4. A AND B ARE TIED!
RAAR
IT'S TURNING INTO AN INCREDIBLE GAME.

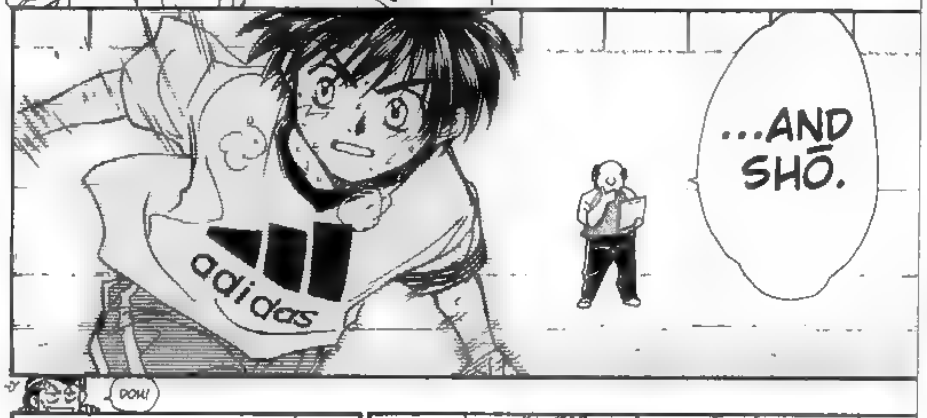
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN SHOW US NOW.
YOU'RE FINALLY STANDING SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER WITH THE OTHER FORWARDS.

AND AS FAR AS DE-FENDING GOES...
FORWARDS ALSO NEED TO DEFEND.


...YOUR SMALL SIZE...
...WILL PUT YOU AT A DISADVANTAGE RIGHT NOW.

TAKASHI, RYOICHI, SHITARA ...
WHAT ABOUT ME?


...AT THIS POINT, I'M AT A LOSS.
BEFORE THE GAME, I PRETTY MUCH DECIDED WHO I'D CHOOSE FOR FORWARD, BUT...


...AND SHŌ.
adidas

DOH!
SHŌ.
LET'S WATCH HOW THEY PLAY UNTIL IT'S OVER.
LET'S NOT INTERRUPT THE GAME.
IF THE REMAINING TWO ARE TO BE CHOSEN FROM AMONG THEM...

FO
OM
GUH!
GOT IT!
VOOSH

DASH
DASH
DASH
GROUP A IS MAKING AN AGGRESSIVE ATTACK!!
DASH
DASH
CHUNK
I'LL LET IT GO OUT THE SIDE-LINE.

18
SS
BO
MAKOTO

SWAP
TUMP

TA-
KASHI
IS
OPEN!
HE
DELAYED
THE
TIMING!
20
WHAM
!

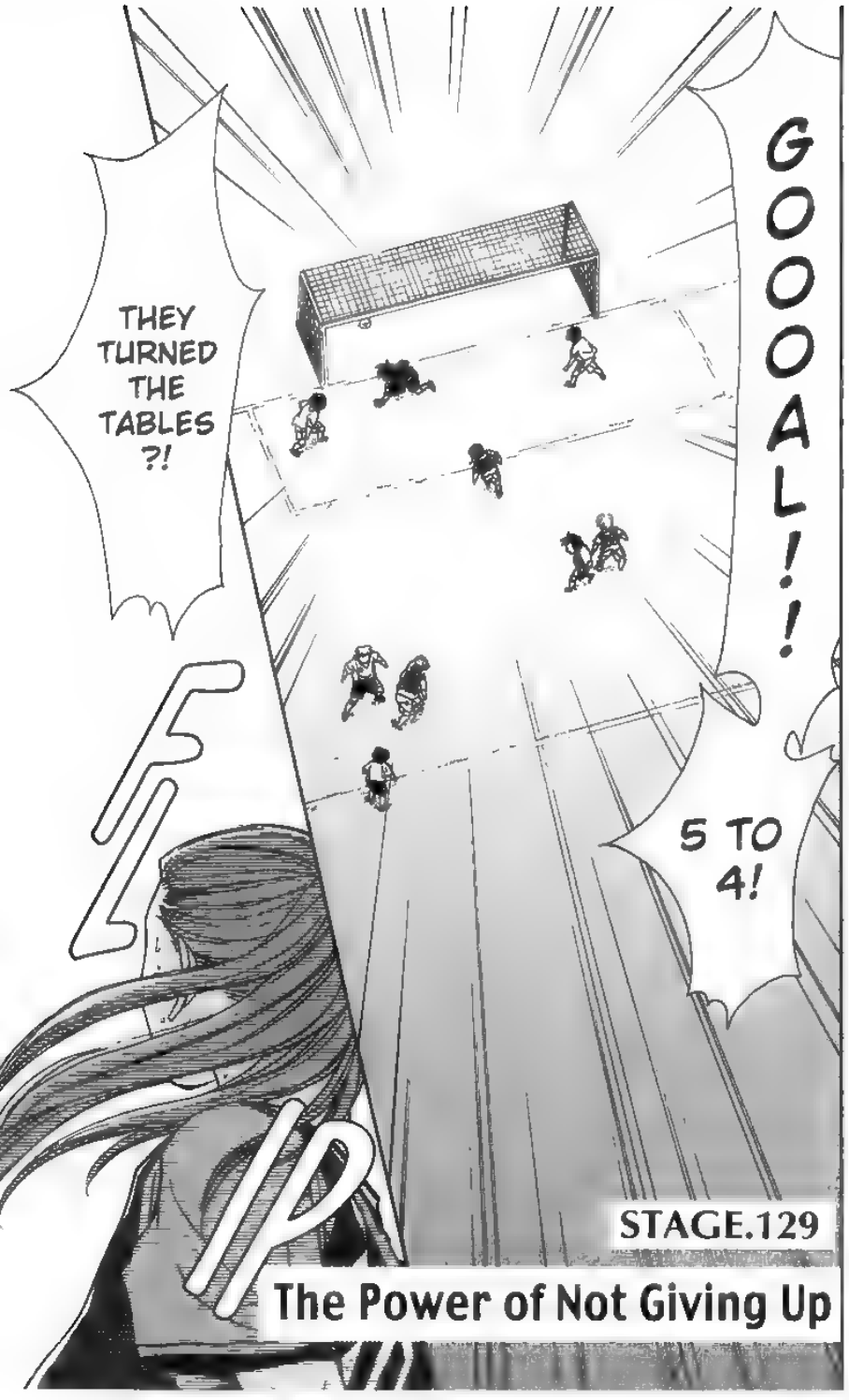
CORNER
KICK!
18
12
BOOT
SHORT
CORNER
!!

SMASH
BLAZE
JOLT
AH.
BOOM

THE PER-VERT!
IS IT YOU?!
IT'S A PHOTO OF MY MOTHER AND SISTER!
RYOICHI ?!

TH
OM
20

20

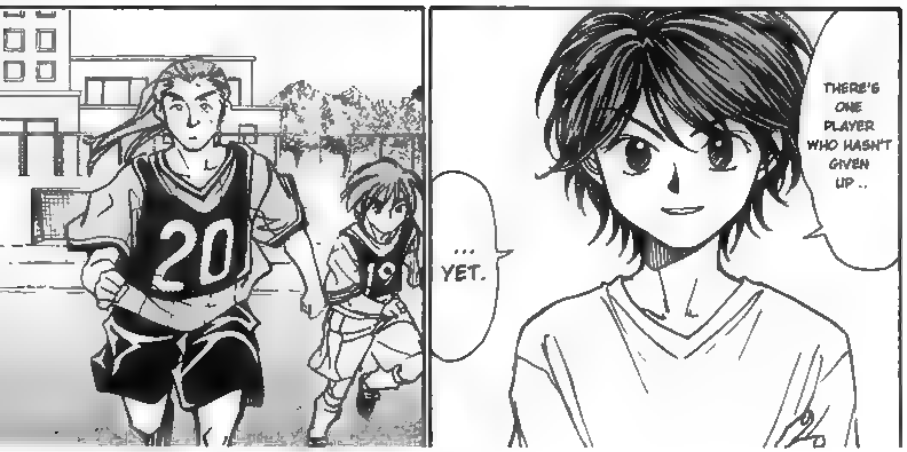

THEY TURNED THE TABLES ?!
GOOOAL!!
5 TO 4!
STAGE.129
The Power of Not Giving Up

WOOH
PH
19
A VOLLEY SHOT WITH HIS BACK TO THE GOAL!
YEAH!
20

HM.
THAT'S HOW A TEAM SHOULD PLAY!
IT'S TOUGH.
THEY CAUGHT UP FROM 3 TO 0 TO TIE, AND THEN THEY REVERSED THE GAME TO 3 TO 4. AFTER ALL THAT...

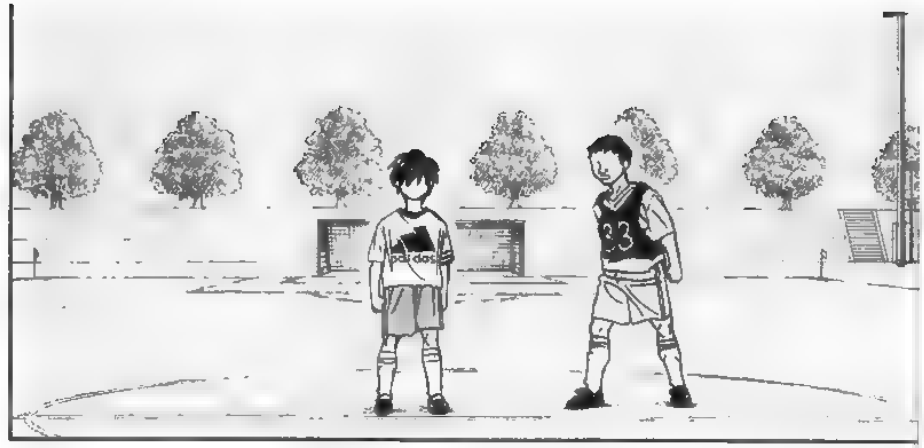
IN AN INSTANT, THE A GUYS TURNED THE TABLES AGAIN...
THE DAMAGE FROM THAT GOAL IS BIG.
B WON'T HAVE THE SPIRIT TO COUNTER-ATTACK...

HOLD ON, NOW.


THERE'S ONE PLAYER WHO HASN'T GIVEN UP..
...YET.

DOOM
AS EXPECTED, THE A GUYS ARE...
...PRETTY STRONG.

THAT GUY!
20
adidas
20
SHOULD BE FUN!
20

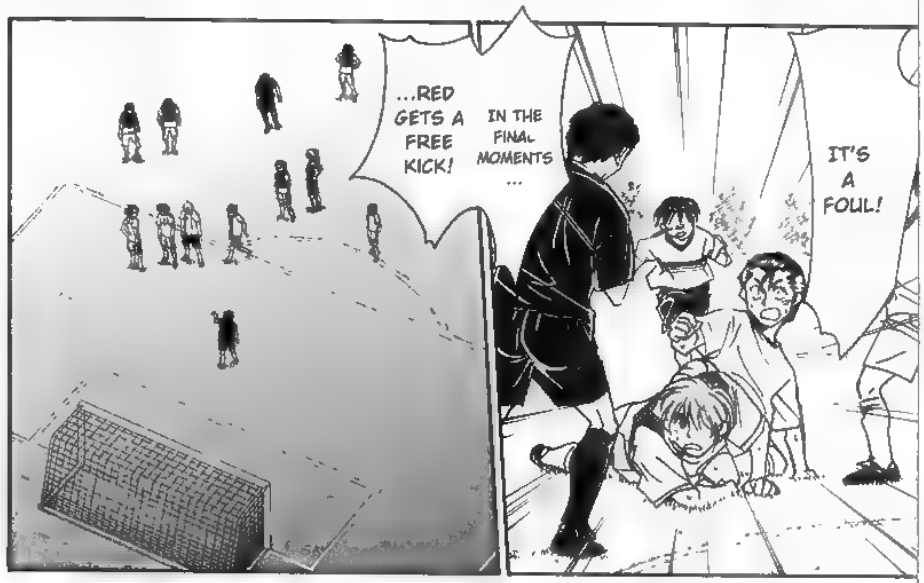

adidas
23

adidas

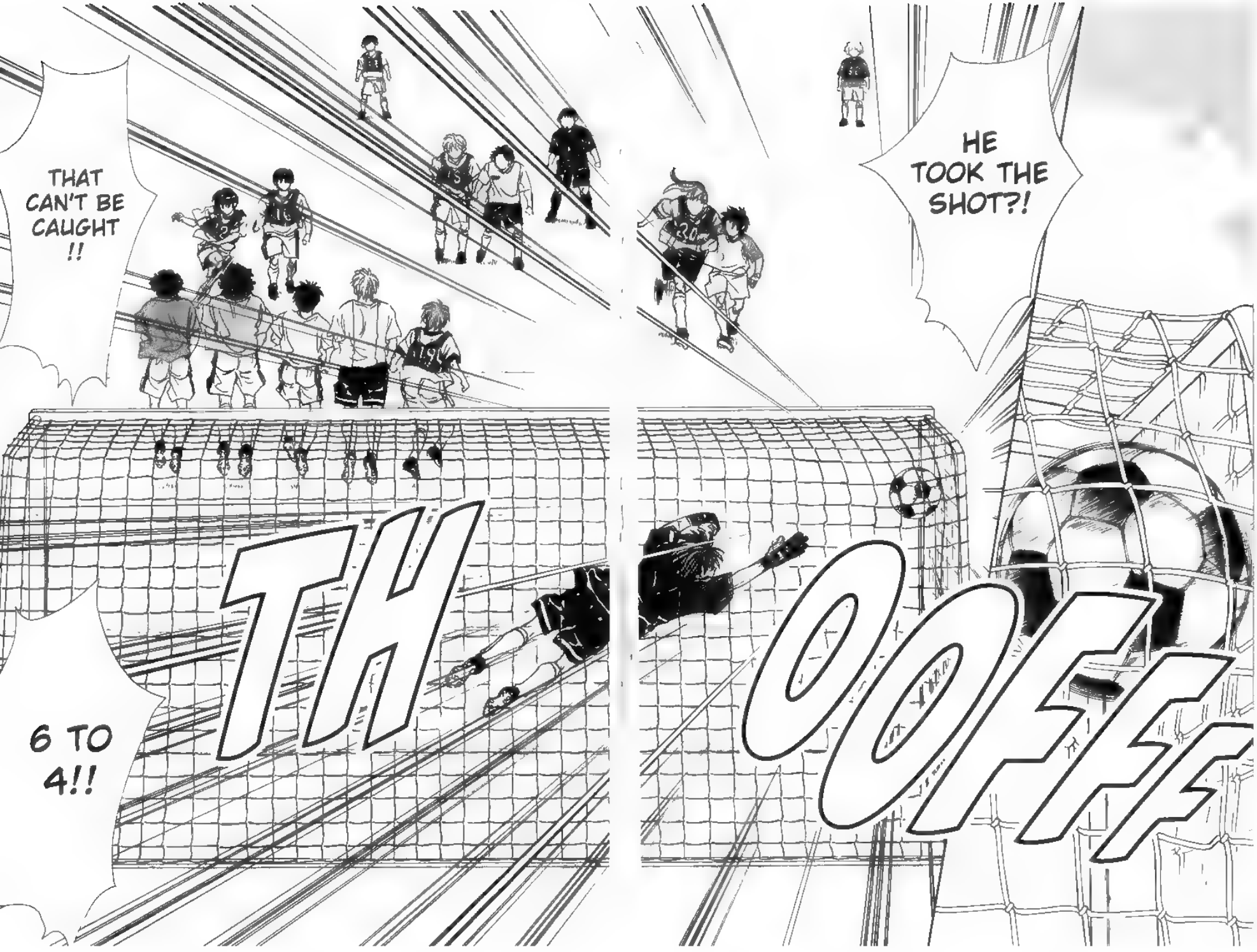
EISHI
...

...IS SMILING.
KICK!!

WAAH
FIVE MINUTES LEFT


...RED GETS A FREE KICK!
IN THE FINAL MOMENTS ...
IT'S A FOUL!

AND THE KICKER IS...?


THAT CAN'T BE CAUGHT !!
6 TO 4!!
TH
HE TOOK THE SHOT?!
OOFF

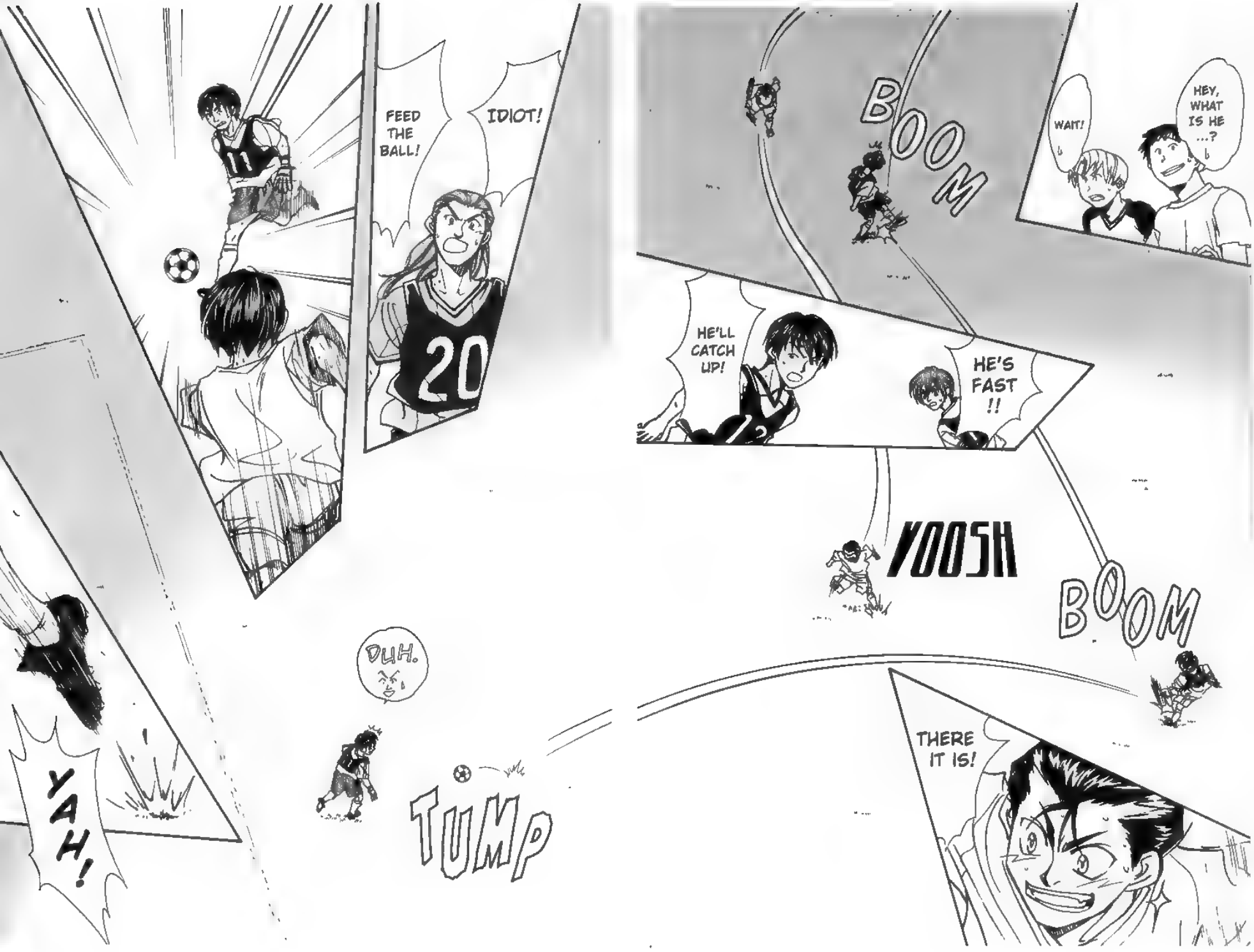
....THAT BOY IS THE TOUGHEST.
CLONK
AND YET, HOW COME HE CAN STILL RUN?
IT'S CLEAR THAT WE'VE LOST.
AND HE'S TOTALLY EXHAUSTED.

SHUMP
CRACK
OUCH!
BASH

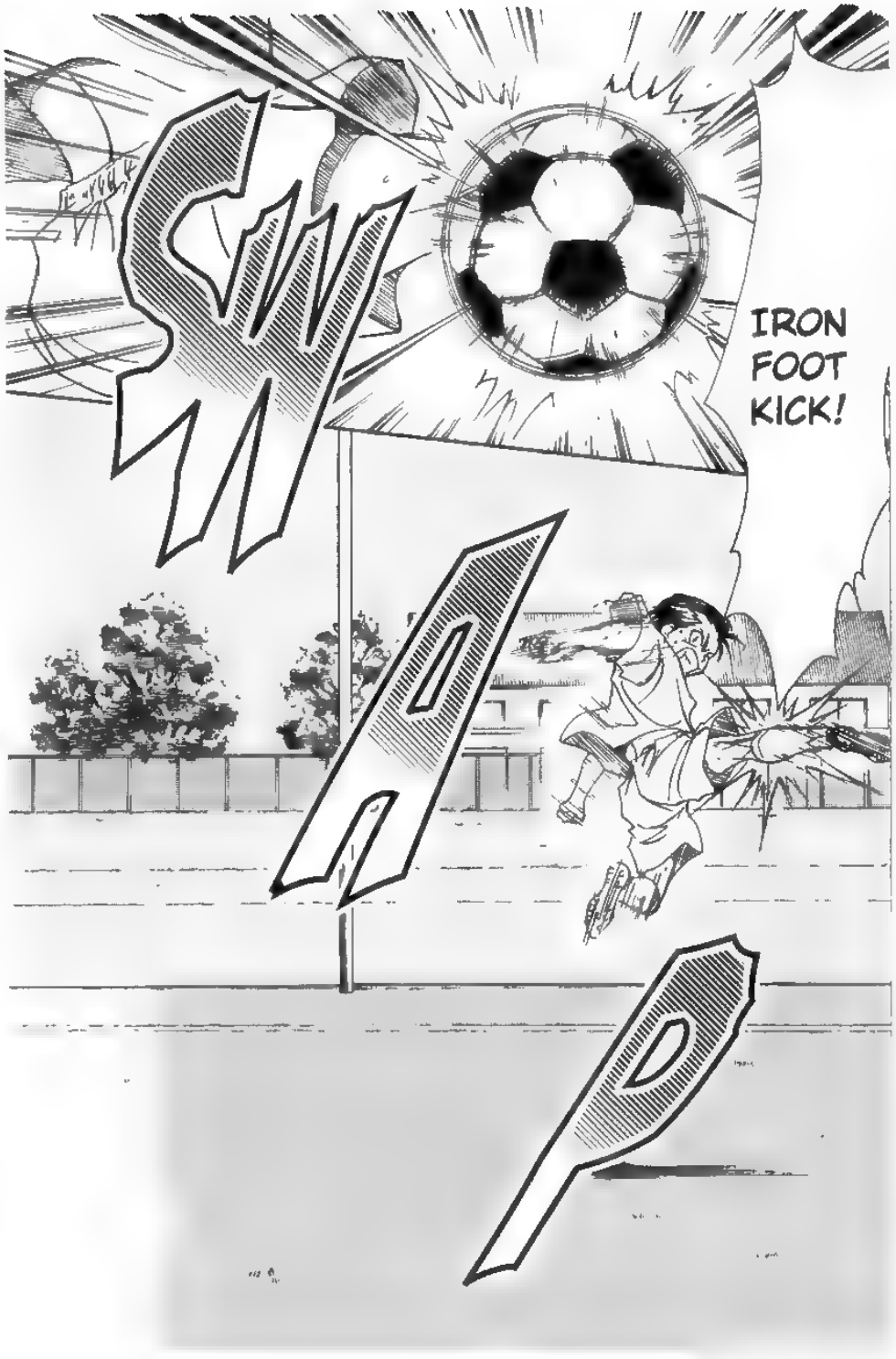
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF.
MARCO.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE LOOK ON HIS FACE...
YES.
...THE BOYS TURNED OUT TO BE SO TOUGH. MY LITTLE TRICK DIDN'T AFFECT THEM.
I'M HAPPY THAT...
AND I'M HAPPY THAT I STILL HAVE AN EYE FOR TALENT.
AMONG ALL OF THEM...

!
THERE'S NO REASON TO KILL OURSELVES ATTACKING THE GOAL.
IT'S ALREADY INTO STOPPAGE TIME!
BOOM
WHOO
SH
ZOOM
BOOM

adidas
TEP-PEI!
I'M WITH YOU!
I WON'T GIVE UP UNTIL THE BITTER END!
SHOOM
I WONDER HOW MANY OF THEM NOTICED...
...HOW MUCH INFLUENCE THAT BOY HAS ON THE GAME.


FEED THE BALL!
IDIOT!
20
YAH!
DUH.
TUMP
BOOM
WAIT!
HEY, WHAT IS HE ...?
HE'LL CATCH UP!
HE'S FAST !!
YOOSH
BOOM
THERE IT IS!

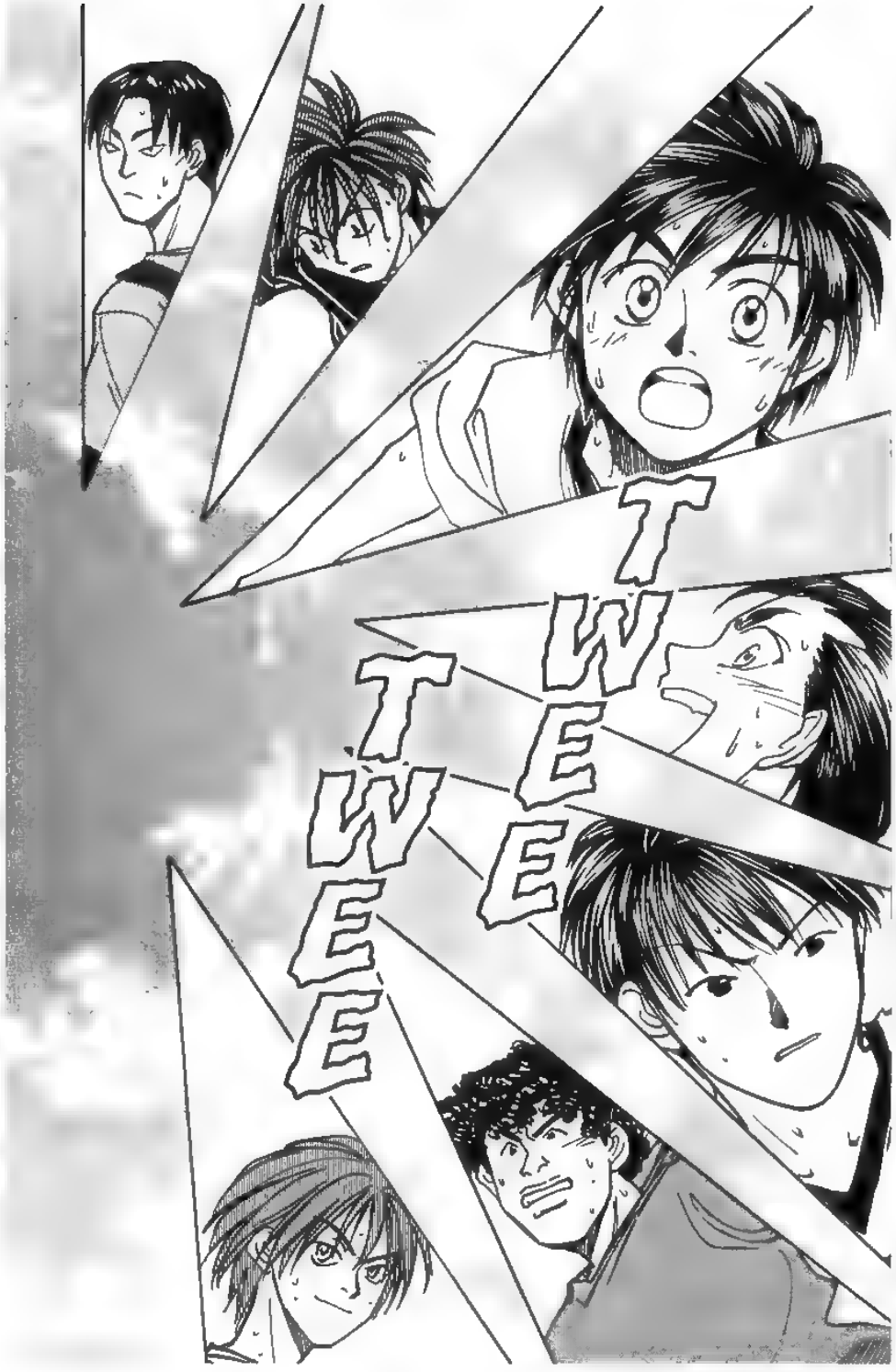
...AAT ?!
WHA ...?
TUMP
AH

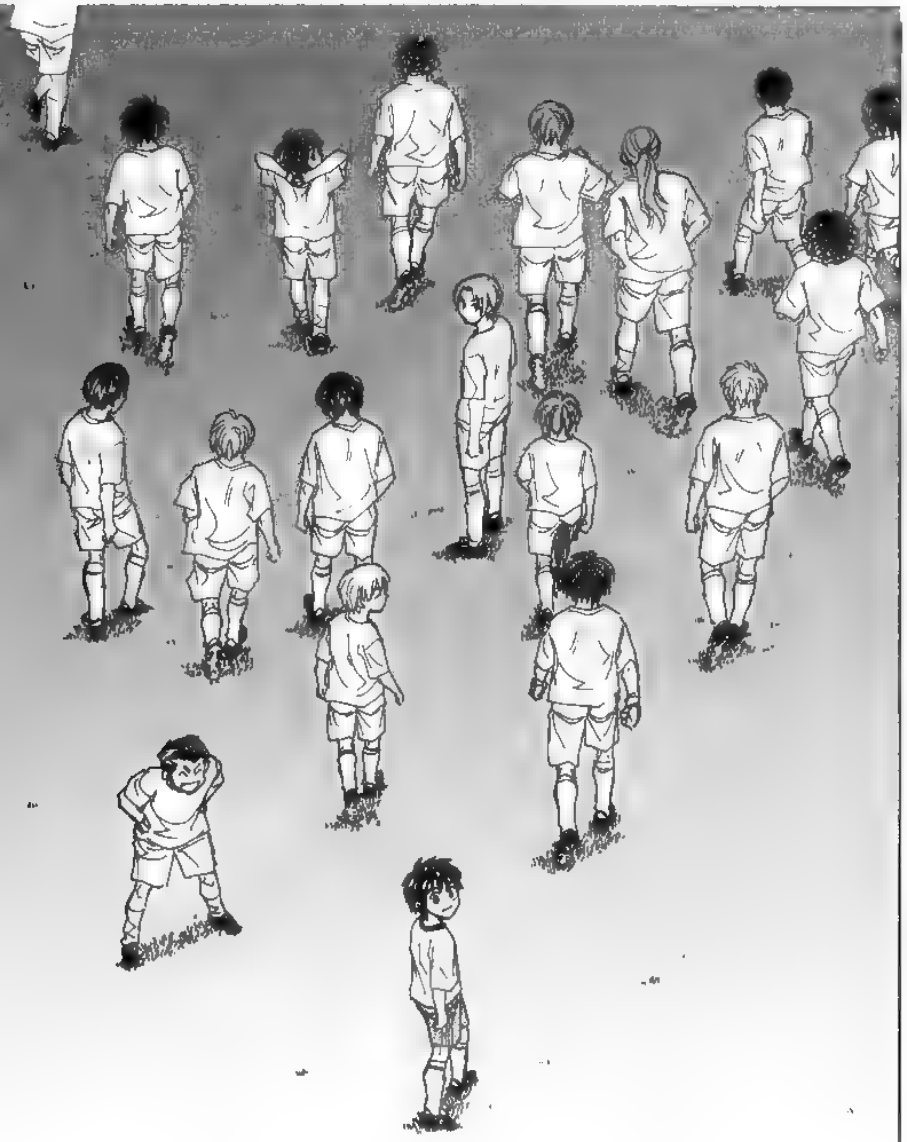

GIN
IRON FOOT KICK!

FLIP
CLONK
STAGE.130
Final Announcement
ONE MORE TO GO!
6 TO 5!
TWEE
AWRIGHT, ONE MORE GOAL.
IS HE A MONKEY?
AMAZING JUMPING POWER!

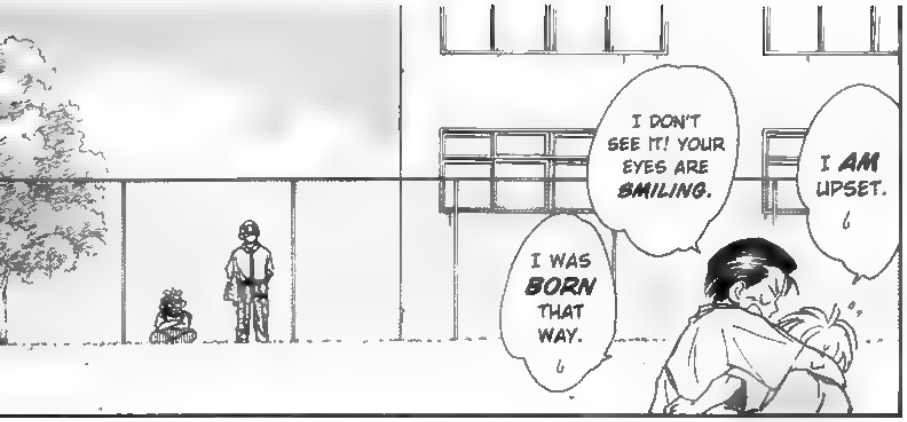
TUMP
TUMP
ROLL
NO WAY.
GOOOAL!!
WOO-HOO !!
SLUMP

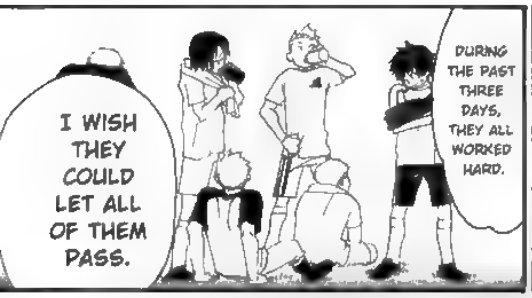
TWEEE


TWEEE
TWEEE



STAGE.130
Final Announcement


I DON'T SEE IT! YOUR EYES ARE SMILING.
I AM UPSET.
I WAS BORN THAT WAY.


I WISH THEY COULD LET ALL OF THEM PASS.
DURING THE PAST THREE DAYS, THEY ALL WORKED HARD.

MORE THAN HALF OF THEM WILL BE DROPPED, RIGHT?

...IF THERE ARE CHOSEN ONES, THERE WILL BE ONES WHO AREN'T CHOSEN.
BUT IN THE REAL WORLD, WHENEVER A WINNER IS BORN, A LOSER IS ALSO BORN. BY THE SAME TOKEN...

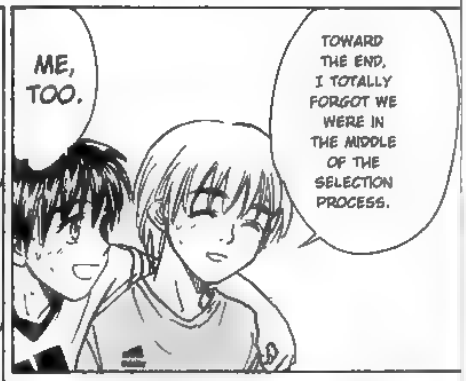
IN-DEED.

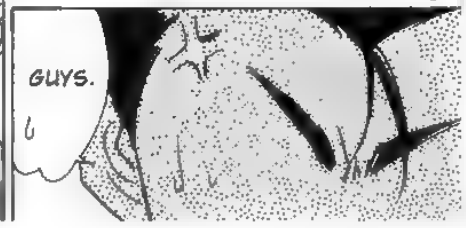
I PULLED A MUSCLE
OU...OUCH

ARE YOU OKAY?
WIPED OUT?

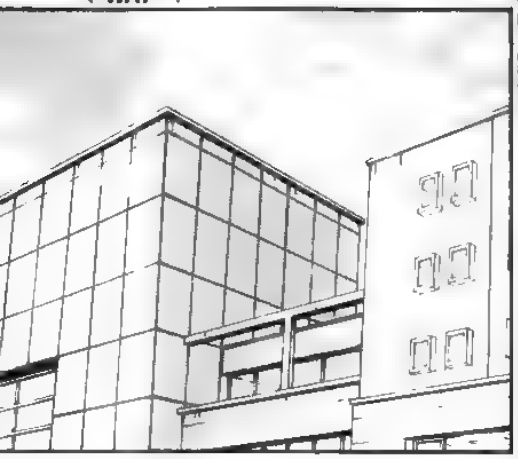
YUP.
LOST BY ONE, HUH?

...MORE UPSET THAT WE LOST !!
GRRR
BE...
WHOA.

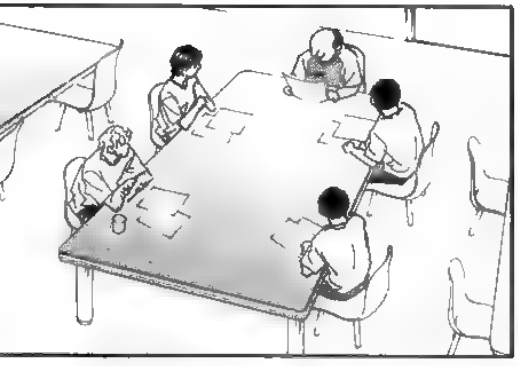

ME, TOO.
TOWARD THE END, I TOTALLY FORGOT WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SELECTION PROCESS.


GUYS.

READ THIS WAY

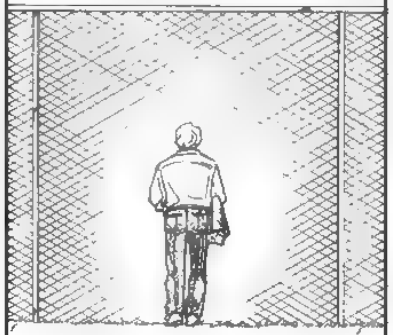


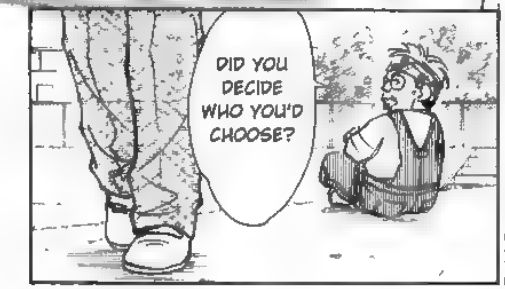
Meeting Room



...AND DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO WINNING.

...THE ONES WHO REFUSED TO GIVE UP...





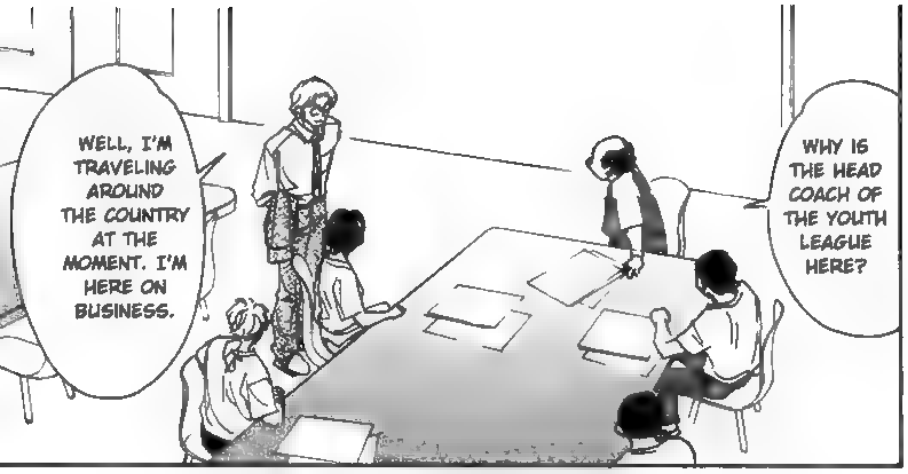
THE ONES WHO BELIEVED IN THEIR OWN ABILITIES...
ALL WE DO IS FIGURE OUT WHO DID WHAT THEY *HAD TO DO.*
THEY *THEM-SELVES* DECIDE
WE AREN'T THE ONES WHO DECIDE.

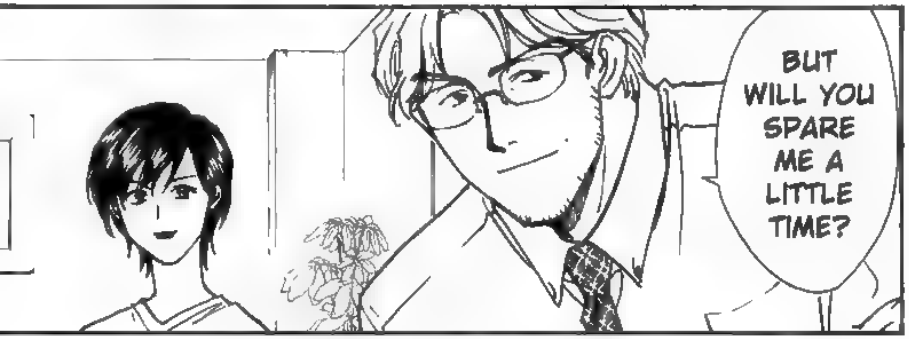
READ THIS WAY

YOU TWO, STOP IT!
HMPH.
SHRRRR
THAT HURT! WHAT'S WITH YOU, AKIRA!?
OOPS, SORRY. MY HAND SLIPPED.
THE SHŌ-STER? PROBABLY GETTING A BITE TO EAT.
HAVE YOU SEEN SHŌ AROUND?

GROAN!
MOAN!
GROAN!
NEURAL GASTRITIS
THROB-THROB
YEAH, IT LOOKS DELICIOUS.
GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE
NERVOUS? WHO'S NERVOUS?
ARE YOU SO NERVOUS THAT YOU CAN'T EAT?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT, TEPPEI?
THE REASON WHY IT'S TAKING THAT LONG IS...
THEY MAKE US WAIT, DON'T THEY?
I HEAR THE MEMBERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE 3 O'CLOCK MEETING.
HE'S NOT HERE, HUH.
♡ YOU ARE WAY TOO FINE TO BE WORKING HERE.

HE'S SO MEEK, AND A FAST LEARNER. IT'S FUN TO TEACH HIM.
BECAUSE WE BOTH STRUGGLE WITH OUR HEIGHT.
YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT SHŌ.
SHŌ-STER... SEEMS KINDA FAMILIAR.
NO FRIGGIN'...
SMILE
ARE YOU JEALOUS, OR WHAT?
YOU'LL LOSE AGAINST TAKI.
IF YOU PLAY LIKE YOU LOOK DOWN ON YOUR TEAM-MATES, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR EDGE.
THERE'S NO NEED TO GO EASY ON HIM. LOOK, YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRUST AND OVER-PROTECTION.
IF YOU'RE OVER-PROTECTIVE, YOU'LL KILL WHAT'S GOOD IN HIM.
SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU


WELL, I'M TRAVELING AROUND THE COUNTRY AT THE MOMENT. I'M HERE ON BUSINESS.
WHY IS THE HEAD COACH OF THE YOUTH LEAGUE HERE?


BUT WILL YOU SPARE ME A LITTLE TIME?

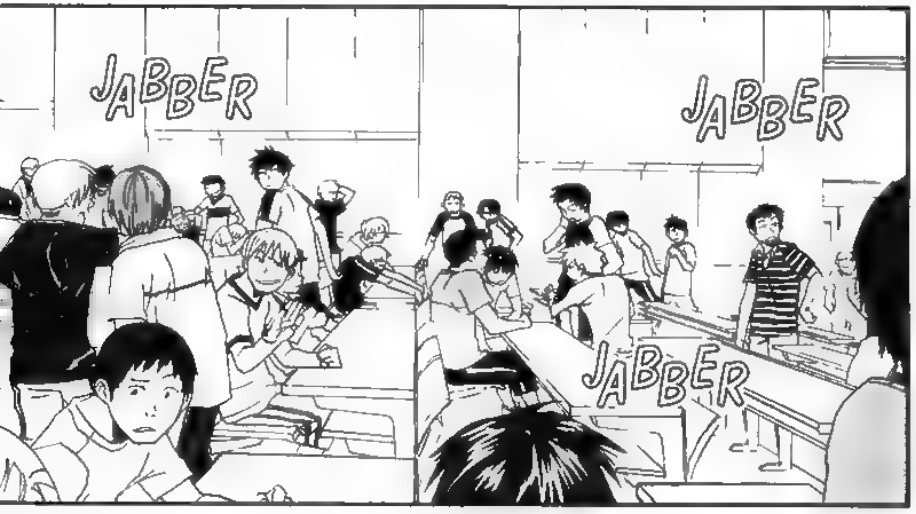
WA HA HA HA
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE MEETING. WHERE DID SHŌ GO?

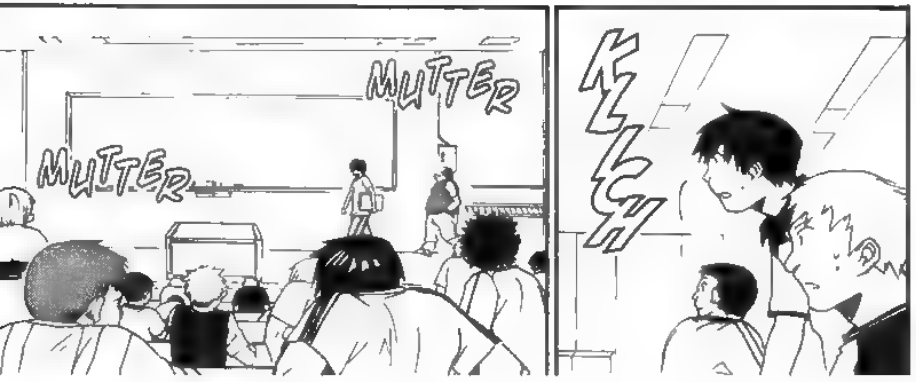
...HIM, I GUESS.

YES.
SO SAIONJI, YOU'RE STICKING TO YOUR GUNS ON RECOMMENDING HIM.

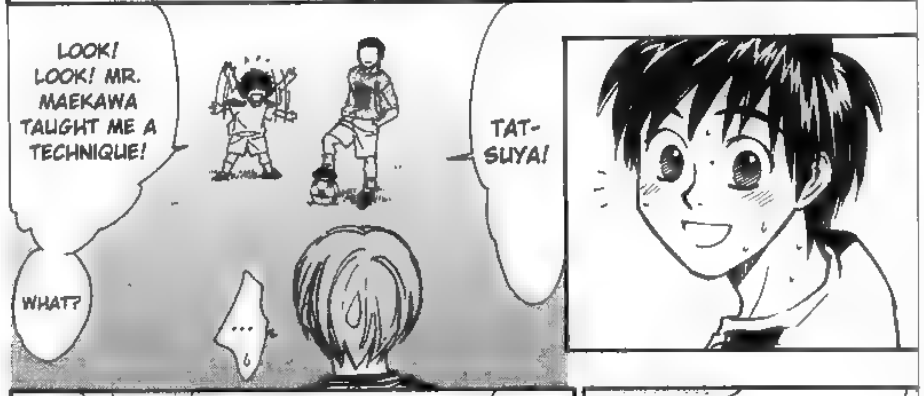
EXCUSE ME.
KNOCK KNOCK
INDEED, HE WASN'T BAD DURING THE RED VS. WHITE GAME, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE'LL DO AS WELL NEXT TIME.
COME IN.
SAKAKI ?!
KLATCH
!

I'LL PASS ON THAT ONE.
DO YOU WANT TO BET IF THE LITTLE GUY IS ACCEPTED?
I THINK WE'D BET ON THE SAME THING.
HMM.
I HEAR THEY'RE ANNOUNCING THE MEMBERS NOW.


JABBER
JABBER
JABBER


MUTTER
MUTTER
KEH

YOU GOT IT.
LIKE THIS?


LOOK! LOOK! MR. MAEKAWA TAUGHT ME A TECHNIQUE!
WHAT?
...
TAT-SUYA!

SURE, KEEP AT IT, KID.
BOW
I'M SORRY THAT I BUGGED YOU.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
AH!
YOU'LL BE LATE FOR THE MEETING!

WELL THEN, PLEASE COME FORWARD AS YOUR NAME IS CALLED.
THOSE WHO ARE ACCEPTED, PLEASE DO NOT BE SATISFIED OR COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR SITUATION. AIM HIGHER.
BURN IT INTO YOUR MIND THAT THERE ARE ALWAYS PLAYERS OUT THERE WHO ARE BETTER THAN YOU.
YES.
EIGHI! STARTING WITH THE MID-FIELDERS.

TAKI!
Y... YES!
YES.
YŪTO!
YŪI-CHIRŌ!
YES.

YES!
DEFENDERS ...KEISUKE!
!
SHI-GERU!

HOWEVER, BEFORE WE DO THAT, THERE'S SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO YOU ALL.
WE'RE HERE TO ANNOUNCE THE TEAM MEMBERS.

...PLEASE DON'T THINK YOU DON'T HAVE THE TALENT.
EVEN IF YOU'RE DROPPED ...

...AND EVERYONE DEVELOPS AT A DIFFERENT SPEED.
PLEASE DON'T FORGET THAT YOU WILL KEEP GETTING BETTER IF YOU STAY FOCUSED ON YOUR GOAL AND APPLY YOURSELF.
YOU ARE STILL YOUNG.
EVERY PERSON IN THIS ROOM IS A LONG WAY FROM HIS PEAK ABILITY...

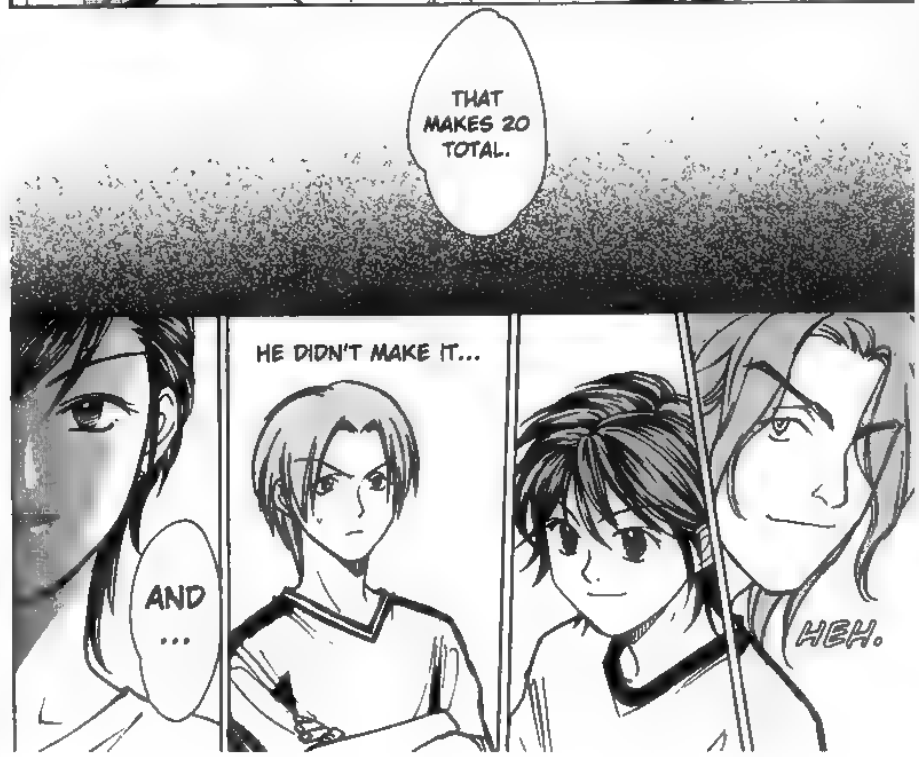
YOU LIE!
ME?
WHAT?
YOU MADE IT.
TEPPEI. SHŌ.
...WE'RE ADDING TWO MORE.
MURMUR
AS SUBSTITUTES, IN CASE OF INJURIES ...
SCRATCH
WHAT'S WRONG?
!
SHŌ! YOU MADE IT.

ZZZZZ
HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HOW WORRIED WE WERE.
HE FELL ASLEEP.
adidas

WHAT ABOUT MY BRO!?
Y... YES!
EH?
ROKU-SUKE!

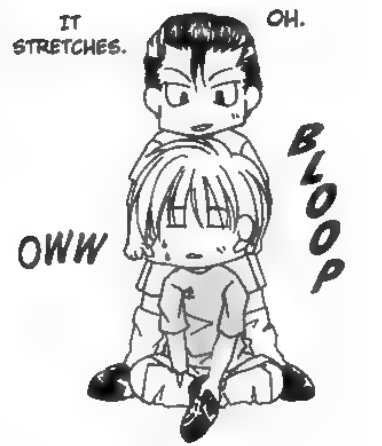
MA-SAKI!
YES.

YES.
TA-KASHI!
RYO-ICHI!
YES.


THAT MAKES 20 TOTAL.
AND ...
HE DIDN'T MAKE IT...
HEH.

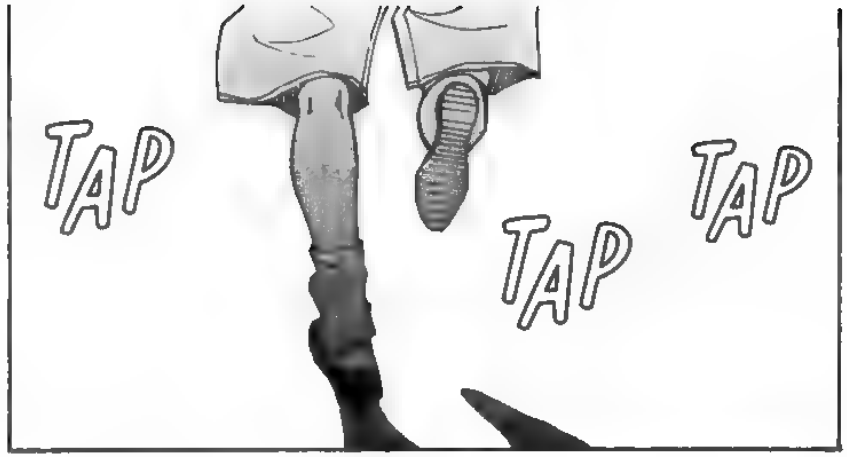
STAGE.131 Crossroads for the Future

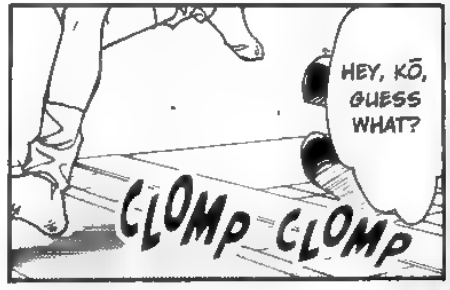
WEE-STLE! THEATRE !!

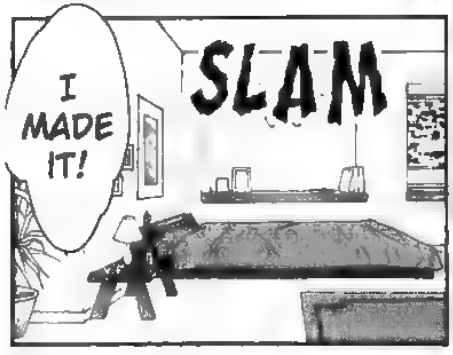


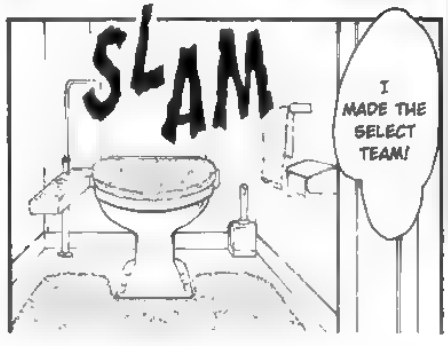
MANGA BY SEKI, ASSISTANT S

READ THIS WAY
HUSH
I FORGOT WHAT TIME IT IS.
AT WORK, HUH?
HMM.
OF COURSE.
I'M HOME.
YAY! CHICKEN CURRY.
To Shō,
Welcome home.
You must be wiped out. The meal is in the fridge.
Kō


TAP
TAP
TAP


HEY, KŌ, GUESS WHAT?
CLOMP CLOMP


I MADE IT!
SLAM


SLAM
I MADE THE SELECT TEAM!

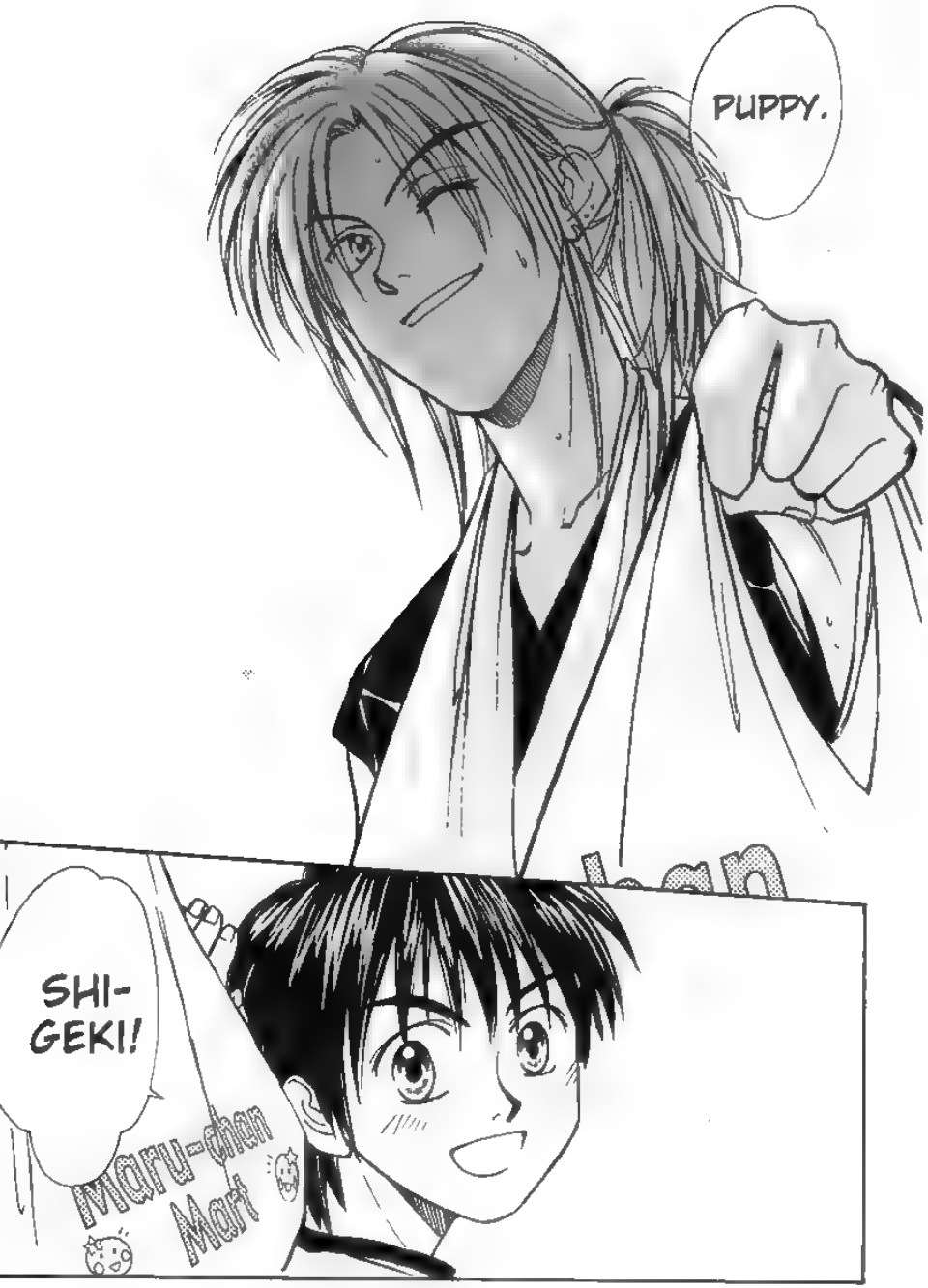
I'M HOME!

READ THIS WAY
URRGH, THIS THING IS THICK, ISN'T IT?
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO DO IT, IT'S ALL WRITTEN IN THERE, SO MASTER IT QUICKLY.
...I CAN BECOME A MUCH BETTER PLAYER.
IF I CAN MASTER WHAT'S WRITTEN IN HERE...
I'LL GO TO SLEEP TONIGHT
AH, BY THE WAY, IT'S GOOD TO PRACTICE BUT...
...IF YOU DON'T SLEEP WELL AT NIGHT, YOU WON'T GROW TALLER!
SLAMIDE

FLIP
FLIP
TRAINING NOTES
(SHŌ)
THIS IS YOUR HOME-WORK.
YOUR JOB IS TO CATCH UP TO EVERYONE QUICKLY.
COMPARED TO THE REGULAR PLAYERS, YOUR SKILL LEVEL IS STILL VERY LOW.
...IT'S ONLY BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN YOUR POTENTIAL.
EVEN THOUGH WE ACCEPTED YOU AS SUB-STITUTES.

WHAT HAPPENED?
AND?
asics
HOW WAS TRAINING CAMP?
FOR ME TOO.
IT WAS ONLY FOR THREE DAYS, BUT IT FELT LIKE A REALLY LONG TIME.
I LEARNED A LOT.
COACH, WE JUST GOT BACK.
TAKE A BREAK!
WHAAT? SHŌ ALSO GOT ACCEPTED ?!
WHAT ABOUT DAICHI?
BUT I'M JUST A SUB-STITUTE...
EVEN SO, IT'S STILL IN-CREDIBLE!
THAT'S INCREDIBLE, SHŌ.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?

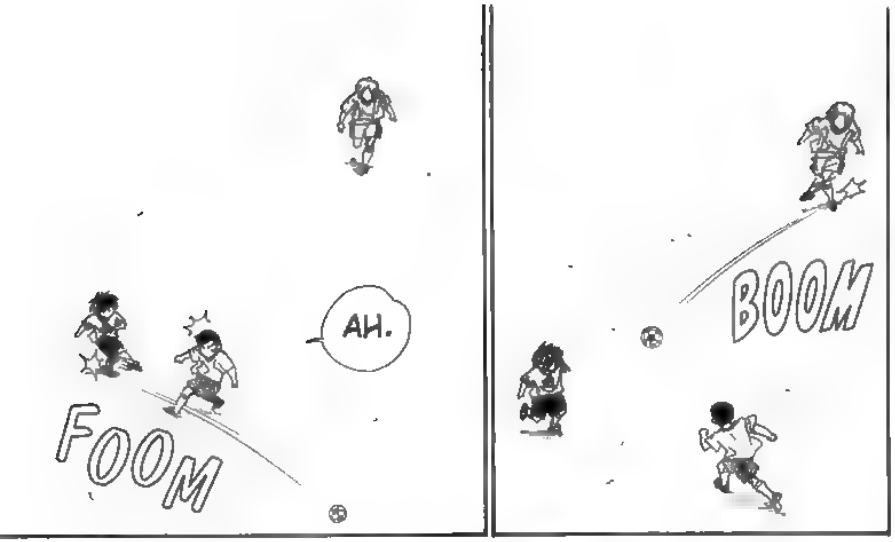
AH.
JOSUI PUBLIC JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
WELCOME BACK!
YOH!
WE'RE HOME!
adidas


PUPPY.
SHI-GEKI!
Maru-chan Mart

CALM
DROPPED.
YEAH, IT'S TOO MUCH TO EXPECT HIM TO MAKE THE TEAM.
YEP, YEP.
EVEN A GENIUS LIKE YOU IS HUMAN, AFTER ALL.
PAT
I'M RELIEVED, DAICHI!
RUSTLE
Mart
DID YOU CALL?
WHOA.
GLANCE
HMM, WHAT MADE ME DO THIS?
OUCH
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, DAICHI?!
WHERE'S SHIGEKI? I DON'T SEE HIM.

...AND THE TOKYO TOURNAMENT IS HERE...
...LET'S REFOCUS OUR ENERGY AND KICK SOME BUTT!
NOW THAT THE MAIN FORCE IS BACK...
LET'S WARM UP AND HAVE A MINI GAME.
OUCH
YOU AREN'T THE ONE IN CHARGE!
IT'S INCREDIBLE ABOUT SHŌ!
...PRE-PARES FOR IT.
IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT EVERY-ONE...
SO THEY MADE IT.
BUT, IN A WAY, IT'S NO SURPRISE. HE'S BEEN WORKING SO HARD.

STARE
NO PROBLEM YOU PAID ME FOR MY TROUBLE ANYWAY
THANKS FOR SHOPPING.
SOMETHING STUCK...
...ON MY FACE?
HMMM.
YOUR FACE LOOKS MORE INDEPENDENT, LIKE A MAN'S FACE.
LOOKS LIKE THEY PUT YOU THROUGH THE WRINGER.
SLAP
O... OKAY!
THE MAIN TOURNAMENT IS COMING UP!
HURRY UP, GET YOUR MIND ON THE GAME AND PRACTICE HARD.


AH.
FOOM
BOOM

THEY'RE PAYING ATTENTION TO WHERE THE OTHERS ARE BEFORE THEY EVEN RECEIVE THE PASS.
THEY TRAP IT AND PASS TO THE NEXT PLAYER.
THEY'RE BARELY HOLDING ONTO THE BALL.

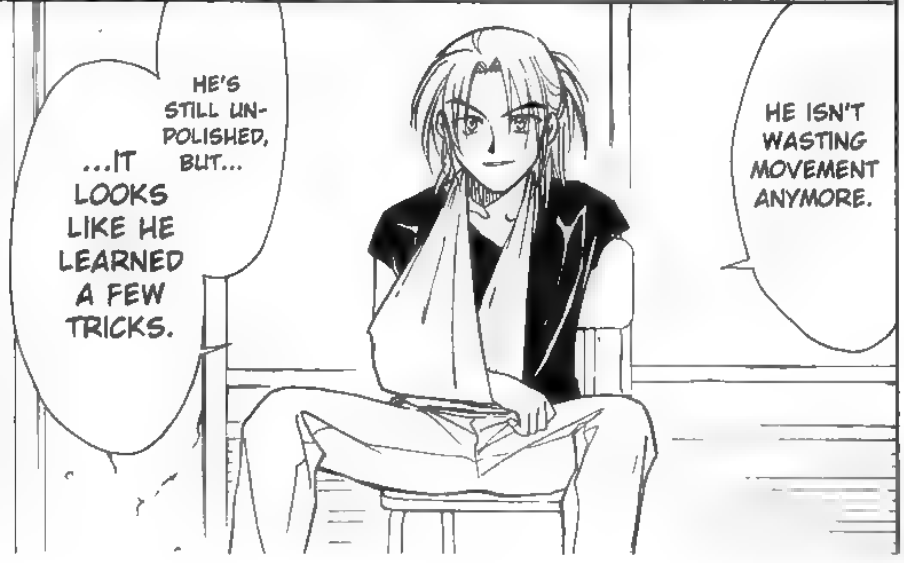
HIS PASS IS STRONG. I MEAN... FAST!
SWAP
asics

I WON'T LET HIM!
SHŌ.
asics

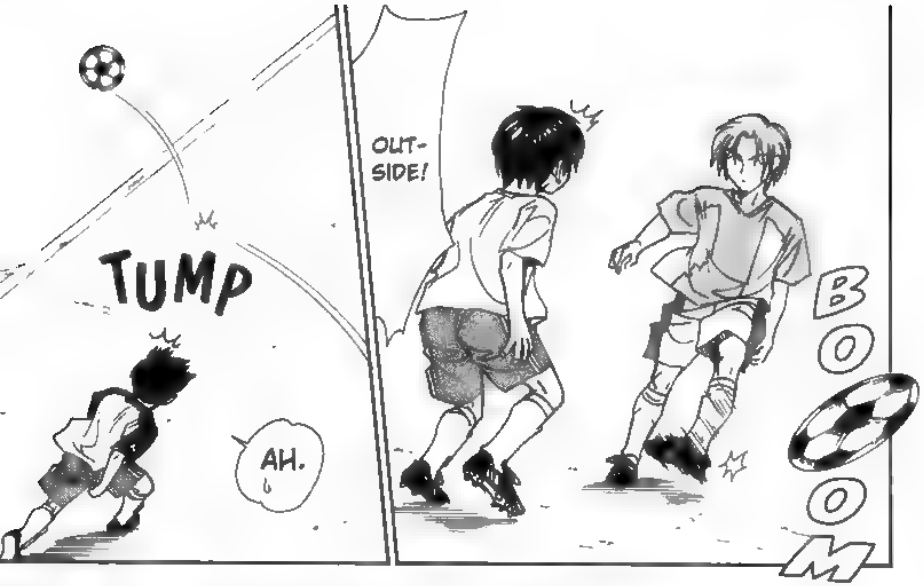
SLA-SH

IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GUARDING THE BALL BETTER.
DANG IT!
FUMP

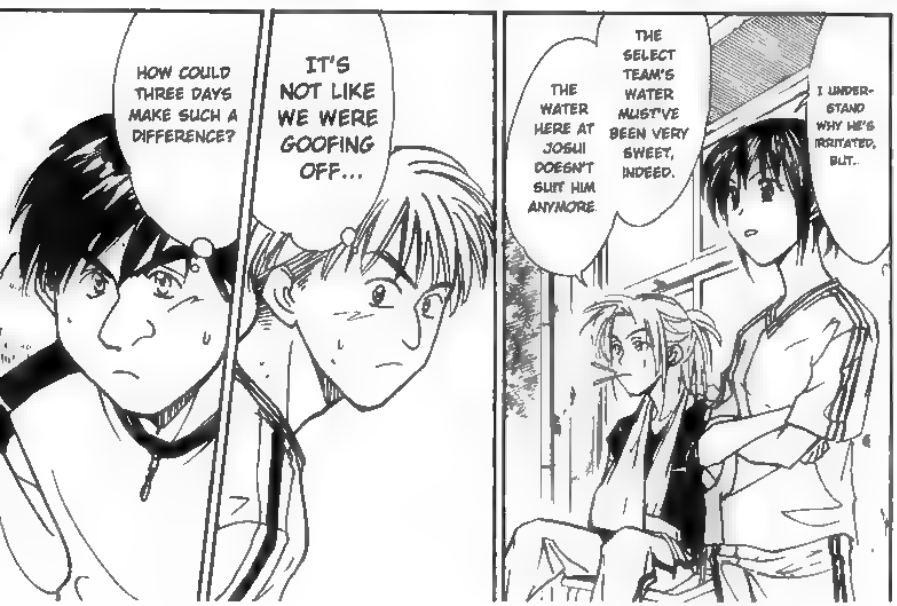
WHI
SH
SH


HE'S STILL UNPOLISHED, BUT...
...IT LOOKS LIKE HE LEARNED A FEW TRICKS.
HE ISN'T WASTING MOVEMENT ANYMORE.

FOO
M
!


TUMP
AH.
OUT-SIDE!
BOOM

'CAUSE I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO COME THIS WAY!
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
YOU COULD'VE CAUGHT UP JUST NOW!


HOW COULD THREE DAYS MAKE SUCH A DIFFERENCE?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE WERE GOOFING OFF...
THE WATER HERE AT JOSUI DOESN'T SUIT HIM ANYMORE.
THE SELECT TEAM'S WATER MUST'VE BEEN VERY SWEET, INDEED.
I UNDER-STAND WHY HE'S IRRITATED, BUT..

...AS FOR TATSU-BOY...
SHŌ'S FINE, BUT...
...IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S GETTING IRRITATED.

DON'T HOLD ON TO THE BALL FOR-EVER!
BECAUSE YOU DO THAT, YOU'LL LET THE DEFENDER CLOSE ON YOU AND YOU CAN'T RELAY IT!
I'M SORRY!
HIRO-YOSHI! HIDE-OMI!
YOU START OUT TOO LATE!

READ THIS WAY
I'M HOME.
CLICK
703
KAZAMATSURI
KLATCH
!
WELCOME HOME.
YOU'RE STILL UP?
WHAT'S WRONG? NO LIGHT ON.

AM I NO LONGER SATISFIED ..
... HERE AT JOSUI?
EVERY-ONE IS MOVING SO SLOWLY.
AM I SO MUCH FASTER THAN BEFORE?

...THAT THEY'RE STANDING AT THE CROSSROADS.
I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME ALL OF THEM REALIZE...

HOW DID YOU ...?
TO GROW MEANS TO CHANGE CONSTANTLY. BOTH FOR YOU AND THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.
TELL YOU WHAT, WHY DON'T YOU STAND OVER THERE
?
THERE. STAND IN FRONT OF THE PILLAR.
LIKE THIS?
THAT'S RIGHT.

CLAK

I KNEW IT.
YOU'VE GROWN AN INCH AND A HALF!
REALLY?
IT'S INCRED-IBLE!
TUSSLE
YOU'RE GETTING BIGGER FOR SURE.
CONGRAT-ULATIONS.
5 Ft
11"
July - 4' 10½"
10"
April - 4' 9"
9"
8"

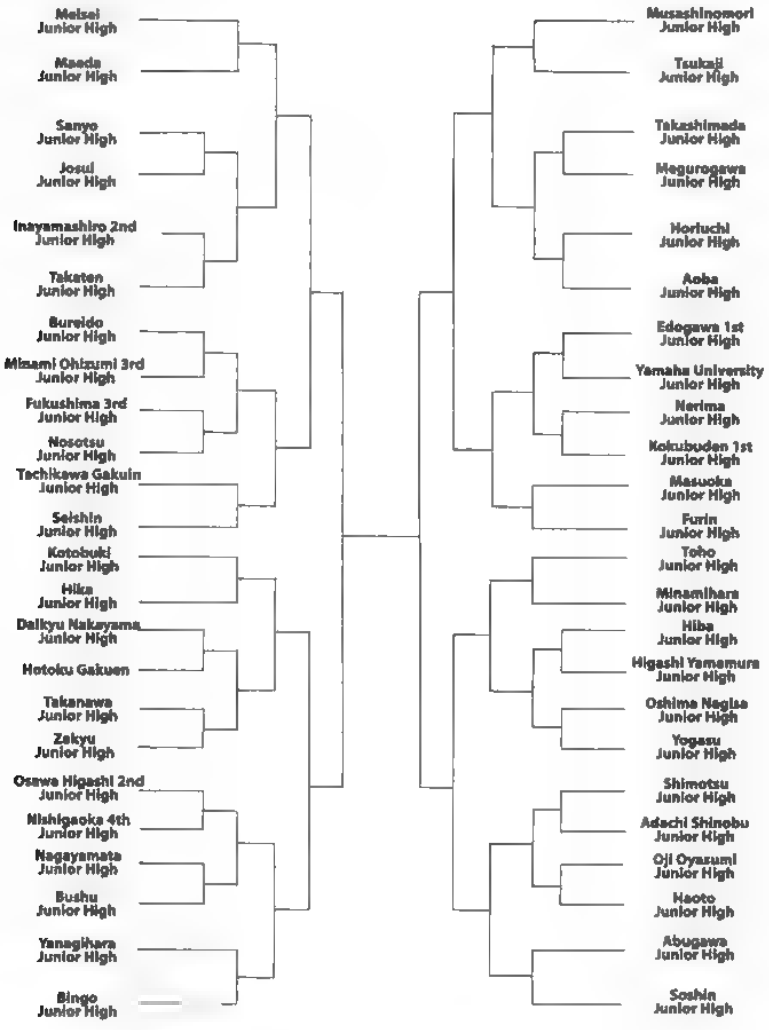
SWITCH
!
TOO BRIGHT...

I AM HAPPY, BUT...

IT'S COMPLICATED, HUH?

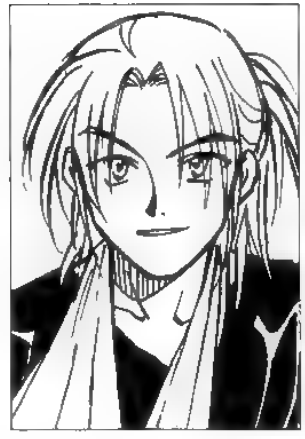
YOU DON'T LOOK HAPPY EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE ACCEPTED.
HIS FACE LOOKS MATURED.

37th Tokyo Junior High School Open Soccer Tournament.



STAGE.132 The Path that Must Be Taken (ONE)

WHISTLE!™

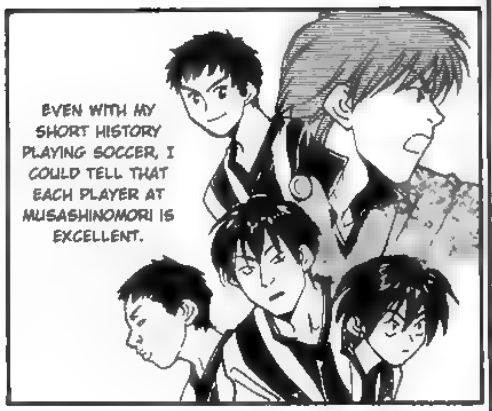


... PROCEEDED TO THE MAIN TOURNAMENT AS A RUNNER-UP.
HIBA JUNIOR HIGH, WHICH LOST AGAINST JOSUI AT THE DISTRICT PRIMARY...

AFTER THE THIRD-PLACE FINAL, THEY REGRETTABLY ENDED IN FOURTH PLACE.
THEY WERE DEFEATED BY MUSASHINOMORI DURING THE SEMI-FINAL GAME.

JOSUI HAD TO PLAY THEM IN THE THIRD GAME.

THEY ARE AS POWERFUL AS MUSASHI-NOMORI (ACCORDING TO YUKI).
AND MEISEI JUNIOR HIGH LOST AGAINST MUSASHI-NOMORI IN THE FINAL GAME.
MEISEI
MEISEI


EVEN WITH MY SHORT HISTORY PLAYING SOCCER, I COULD TELL THAT EACH PLAYER AT MUSASHINOMORI IS EXCELLENT.

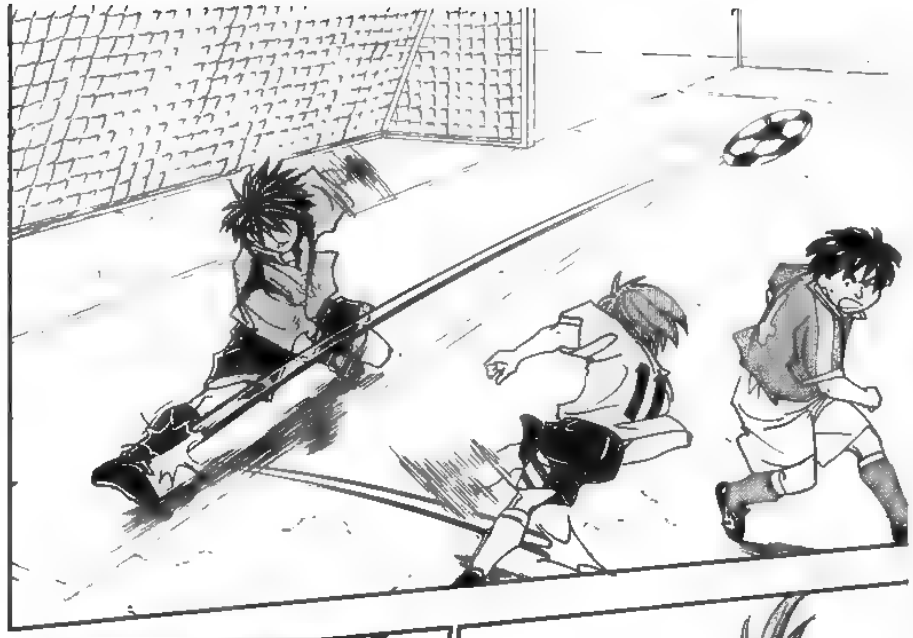
ESPECIALLY THEIR NUMBER 10.
I WAS IMPRESSED BY HIS SPIRITED PLAY.
MEISEI

I HAVE A FEELING THAT MUSASHINOMORI'S VICTORY IS DUE LARGELY TO HIS EFFORTS.

THE TOKYO TOURNAMENT.
IT WAS MUSASHINOMORI THAT WON.

MEISEI
MEISEI

AGAINST SUCH A POWERFUL TEAM, THE BEST WE COULD DO WAS TIE 0 TO 0.



MEISEI

JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH'S SUMMER...
...ENDED.

DURING THE SECOND HALF, WHEN THERE WERE FIVE MINUTES LEFT, MEISEI WAS FOULED...
...AND WE ENDED UP GIVING OUR OPPONENT A PENALTY KICK.
1 TO 0.
MEISEI

...I COULDN'T STOP MY TEARS.

Denny's

GLOOOOOOM
WHEN I'M TREATING YOU?
WELL, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
NO ONE'S ORDER-ING?
WHAT'S THIS?

THE DREAM OF DEFEATING MUSASHINOMORI NEVER CAME TRUE.
JOSUI

WITHOUT SHIGEKI AND MASATO, THIS IS AS FAR AS JOSUI CAN GO, I GUESS ...
WE LOST AFTER THE THIRD GAME.
JOSUI

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO REMAIN IN A DAZE?
PAT

IT WAS THE PLAYERS WHO WERE UPSET, BUT...

COME ON.

BLUB BLUB

READ THIS WAY

!

HM?

WASN'T IT SUPPOSED TO BE A DAY OF REST TODAY?

I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT.

WHAAAT!

SHIGEKI, YOU'RE A TRAITOR!

AH, ME TOO.

BIP

YES.

HOT TEA, PLEASE.

ONE ORDER OF THE TERIYAKI STEAK MEAL.

DON'T CRY...

WHAT? YOU GUYS WANT TO EAT, TOO?

BUT I'M HUNGRY.

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

I WANTED TO ASK YOUR ADVICE
COACH.
SHŌ.
CAN I STILL DECLINE THE SPOT?
I'M A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE SELECT TEAM...
WHAT ABOUT?

GEEZ. WHAT'RE MY PARENTS THINKING?
LIMP
HUH?
IT'S OKAY.
WHAT KIND OF SADISTS MAKE A KID WITH A SPRAINED ANKLE WALK THE DOG?
SORRY ABOUT THIS WHEN YOU TOOK THE TROUBLE TO COME VISIT ME
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
YOH.
SHŌ?
SHŌ.

I LIKE JOSUI.
I THOUGHT I WANTED TO WIN WITH THIS TEAM, BUT...
I... I...
IT'S A GOOD THING I WENT THERE.
I MADE IT THIS FAR BECAUSE OF EVERYONE AT JOSUI.
HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED A MARATHON?
WHAT? Y... YES.

EVEN THOUGH I'M A SUB-STITUTE... I WAS HAPPY, BUT... ER...
HONESTLY... I DIDN'T THINK I'D MAKE IT.
EH?! ER... WELL ...
DO YOU WANT TO?
IT'S EASY TO READ YOUR MIND.
YOU HATE YOURSELF FOR BEING SO EXCITED ABOUT THE SELECT TEAM THAT YOU'VE ALMOST FORGOTTEN ABOUT JOSUI?

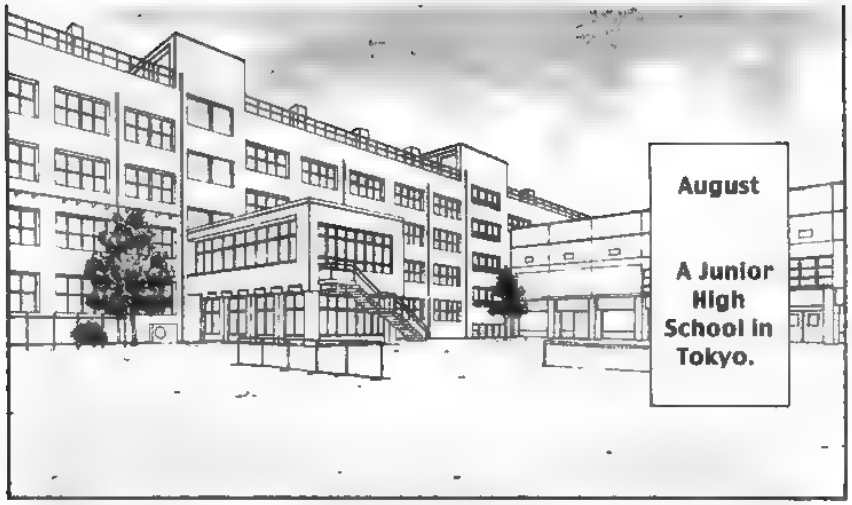
...YOU SHOULD MAKE UP YOUR MIND NOW!
IF YOU PLAN TO FEED YOURSELF BY PLAYING SOCCER...
I...
OF COURSE YOU'LL CHOOSE THE SELECT TEAM, RIGHT SHŌ?

ANY RUNNER WHO WANTS TO WIN NEEDS TO KEEP UP WITH THE PACK IN THE FRONT
OTHERWISE, IN THE FINAL STRETCH, THAT RUNNER WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO CATCH UP.
AFTER IT STARTS, AT AROUND THE MIDDLE POINT, LITTLE PACKS ARE FORMED.
36
IF YOU TRULY WANT TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL SOCCER PLAYER, YOU WILL DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO STAY WITH THAT PACK... EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO GNAW ON A ROCK.
RIGHT NOW, YOU ARE ON THE TAIL END OF THAT FIRST PACK, SO TO SPEAK.

IF YOU'RE HALFHEARTED, IT'S A NUISANCE FOR YOUR TEAMMATES WHO WILL HAVE TO DEPEND ON YOU.
IT'S OKAY TO HESITATE, BUT IF YOUR GOAL IS TO BE A PRO, THEN...
...THIS IS A CHOICE YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE AT SOME POINT... EVEN IF YOU DON'T DO IT NOW.

WE WANT TO WATCH THE DREAM COME TRUE.
AFTER ALL, IT WON'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT JOGUI IS YOUR HOME TURF.
YUP.
YUP.
AND THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD GO FOR IT.
IDIOT. YOU SHOULDN'T CRY.
NOPE.

SHHP
WE DIDN'T MEAN TO EAVESDROP ON YOU, BUT...
MA-SATO!
YŪSUKE, TOO!
IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND, SHŌ.
WE CAN UNDER-STAND THAT, EVEN IF WE WANT TO PRETEND IT ISN'T TRUE. YOU'RE *DIFFERENT* FROM US.
MA-SATO ...
BECAUSE *YOU* WERE THERE, *WE* COULD COME THIS FAR.
I THINK THERE ARE MANY OTHERS WHO FEEL THE SAME WAY WE DO.
MASATO AND I LIKE THE WAY SHŌ PLAYS.



STAGE.133 **Chosen Ones, Gather**

Special Episode

Do Your Best, Girls!! PART 1

Special Training
NOW, I'M BURNING FOR SOCCER.
I AM MIYUKI SAKURAI. I JOINED THE SOCCER CLUB FOLLOWING THE SENIOR CLASSMATE I IDOLIZE, BUT...
MY GOAL IS TO BE LIKE YUKI.
THAT'S WHY, STARTING TODAY, I'M GOING TO PRACTICE ON MY OWN AT A PARK NEAR MY HOUSE.
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE TRAINING TO MAKE YOU A BETTER PLAYER.
OX PARK
BALL BAG.

STAGE.133 Chosen Ones, Gather

MURMUR
WHAT?
NO WAY.
...
LET ME REPEAT IT ONCE AGAIN, THEN
SERIOUSLY?

Tokyo Select Team – First Day of Practice

京都
Kyoto

IT'S PROBABLY ABOUT TIME FOR THEM TO START THEIR PRACTICE SESSION.

THE MOMENT THE SHIP LEAVES PORT, IT HITS A REEF, HUH?
WHAT A THING TO SAY.
IT'S POS-SIBLE
PSST
PSST
SHE MUST'VE POISONED HIM, DON'T YOU THINK?

DOES SHE EVEN KNOW SOCCER? THAT FEMALE COACH?
CHATTER CHATTER
THIS ISN'T A JOKE.
MUTTER MUTTER
IS THE SELECT TEAM GOING TO BE OKAY?

CHATTER
...I DIDN'T JOIN THE SELECT TEAM TO PLAY FOR SOME CHICK.
I LIKE THE BEAUTIFUL LADIES, BUT...
IF THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS, WE'LL START THE TRAINING.
HOLD ON A MINUTE!

IN PLACE OF HEAD COACH OBANAZAWA WHO'S BEEN HOSPITALIZED ...
...I, SAIONJI, AM GOING TO BE THE HEAD COACH OF THIS TEAM.
MURMUR

SO, EVEN IF IT'S A WOMAN, AS LONG AS SHE HAS THE SKILLS, IT'S OKAY, THEN?
HEY, TAKA-SHI!
KEEP A CIVIL TONGUE IN YOUR MOUTH!

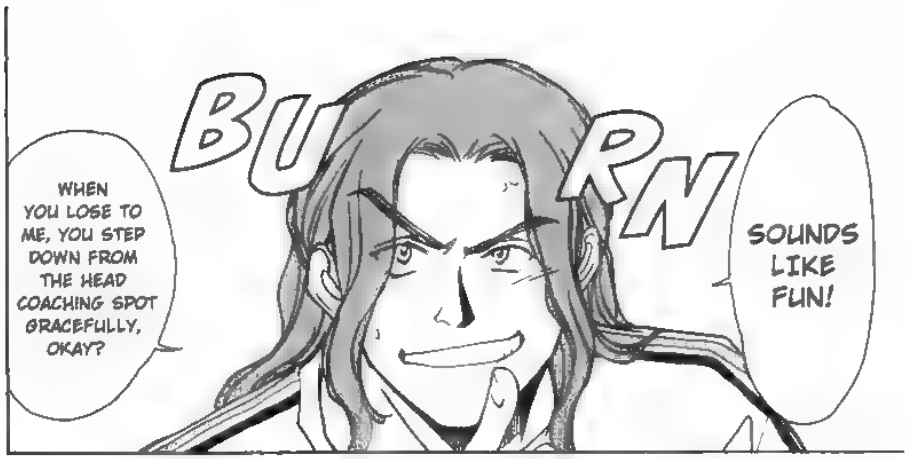
I'M SAYING I'LL PLAY AGAINST YOU.
WELL... ER...
EH?
OKAY! I GET IT.
YOU CAN JUDGE FOR YOURSELF...
THEN TRY ME.
WHAT?
...IF I HAVE THE SKILLS TO COACH YOU!

YEAH, WHAT HE SAID!
WELL SAID!

I DON'T LIKE AN INFERIOR BOSSING ME AROUND LIKE SHE'S SUPERIOR.
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE THAT I'M A WOMAN?

DO YOU THINK I'D SIT STILL FOR A HEAD COACH WITH NO SKILLS?

AKIRA IS ALSO THE HEAD COACH AT HIBA JUNIOR HIGH, YOU KNOW.


BURN
WHEN YOU LOSE TO ME, YOU STEP DOWN FROM THE HEAD COACHING SPOT GRACEFULLY, OKAY?
SOUNDS LIKE FUN!

YES, IF I LOSE.
HEH.
WILL SHE BE OKAY?
YES.
KENTARŌ, WILL YOU BE THE KEEPER?
WELL, JUST WATCH.
IT'LL BE TOO EMBARRASSING.
TAKASHI, DON'T HUMILIATE HER.
NOT AT ALL.
AREN'T YOU WORRIED, TSUBASA?
IT'S A CRITICAL TIME AT THE BEGINNING. TAKASHI STIRRED THINGS UP AT THE RIGHT MOMENT.
COACH.

SEND IT!
FOOM
HUG

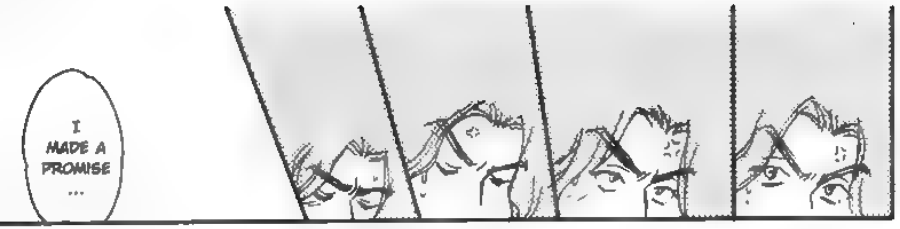
SOUNDS GOOD.
IT'S A ONE-ON-ONE GAME. THE ONE WHO MAKES THE GOAL AFTER CONTACT WINS.
OK.
MARCO, WILL YOU SEND THE BALL IN WHEN I SIGNAL?
GO.

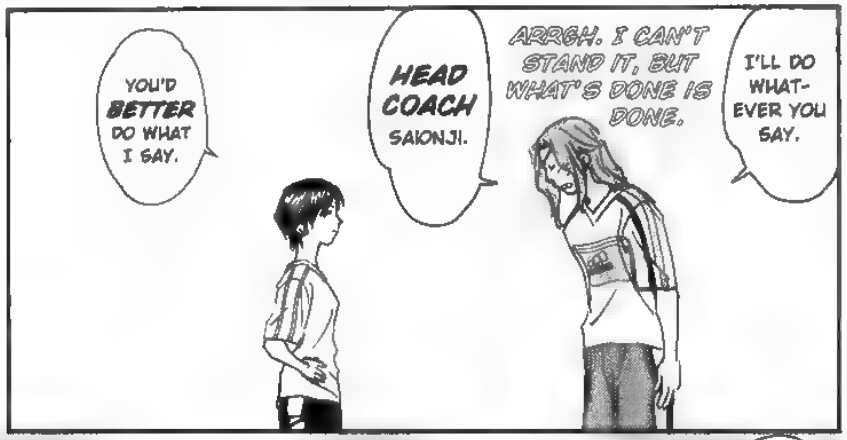
FLIP
NO YOU DON'T!
WOOSH

I'LL PSYCH HER OUT!
FWISH
WATCH OUT!
WHA ...?
BOOM

BO
OM

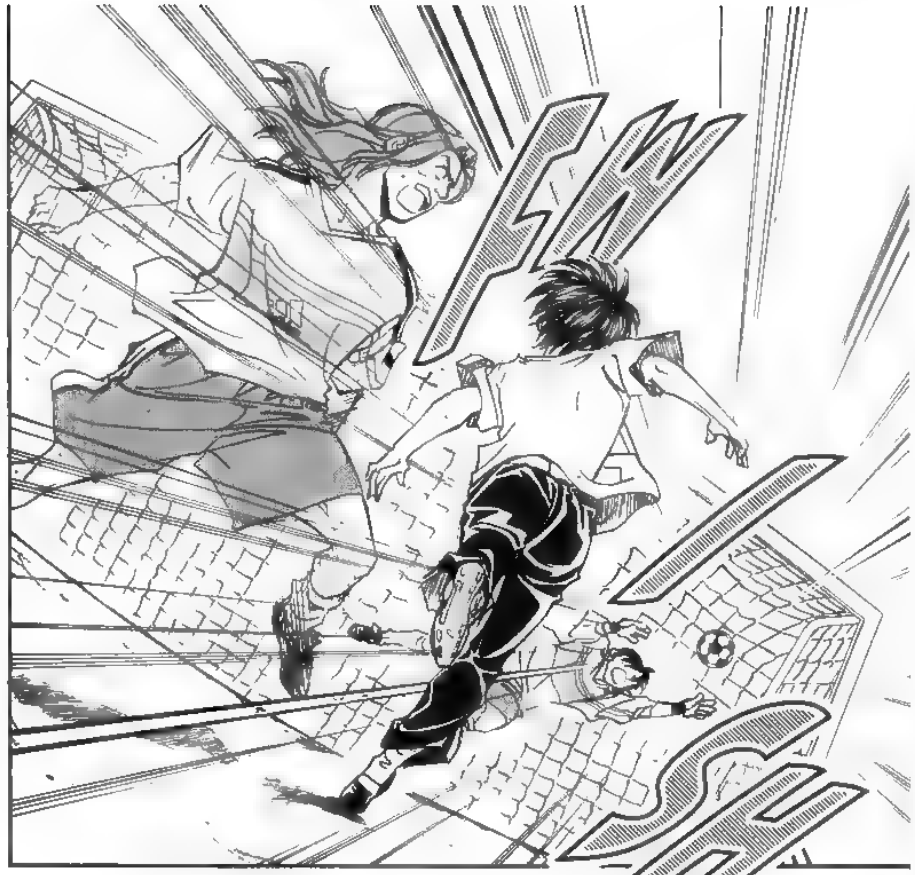
BOOM
GRIN
WHAT?
BI
P


I MADE A PROMISE ...


YOU'D BETTER DO WHAT I SAY.
HEAD COACH SAIONJI.
ARRGH. I CAN'T STAND IT, BUT WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY.

NOPE.
ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

AND, OF COURSE ...
FOR NOW, I'M PLANNING TO BUILD OUR TEAM FOR THAT TOURNAMENT.
IN MARCH OF NEXT YEAR, THERE WILL BE A TOURNAMENT FOR THE SELECT TEAMS FROM DIFFERENT REGIONS.


FEW
SHE

HOW ABOUT IT?
GYAA!
CLUTCH

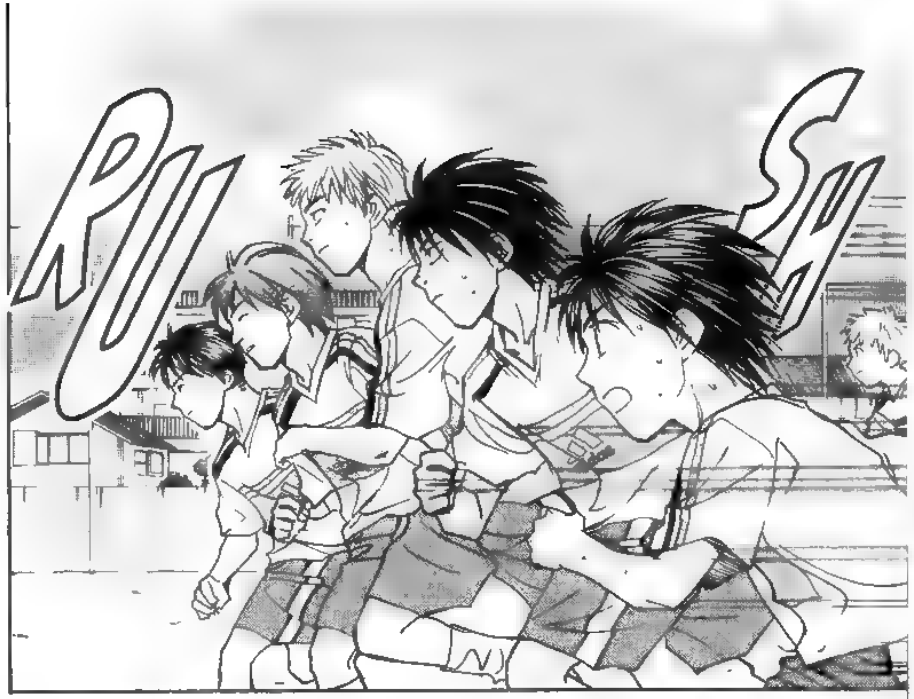
MY DREAM IS TO NURTURE A TEAM THAT CAN PERFORM AT THAT LEVEL.
THE REAL JOY OF SOCCER IS IN EXECUTING A BEAUTIFULLY PLAYED GAME.
THUMP
I BELIEVE YOU GUYS HAVE THE ABILITY TO BE GREAT.
GRIN
THIS TEAM... WITH HER AS OUR COACH.
RA
DON'T SETTLE FOR "GOOD."
AH
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF TEAM IT WILL BECOME.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
YES!
I'M EXCITED!
...THEY WERE ABSENT DUE TO THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT.
IS THIS ALLOWED!
AS FOR THE THREE FROM MUSASHINOMORI...
THUS, THE TOKYO SELECT TEAM BEGAN.

WE'LL WIN WITH THIS TEAM!

STAGE.134

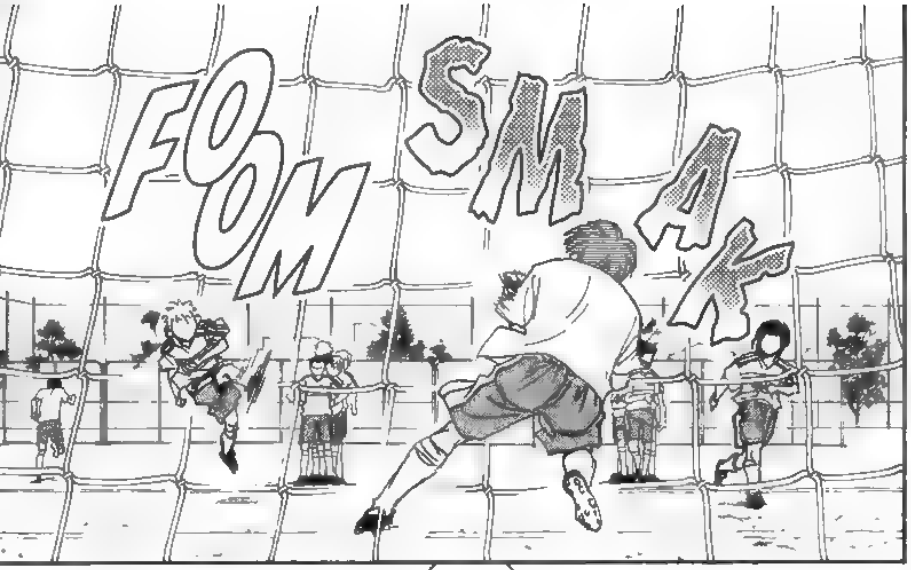
Reality Is Thrust Upon Us

BOOM
GRAB
RETURN IT IN TWO TOUCHES...
...ACCURATELY.
FOOM
YOU'RE SLOW.
YOU SUCK!
QUICKLY!
TUMP
AH.

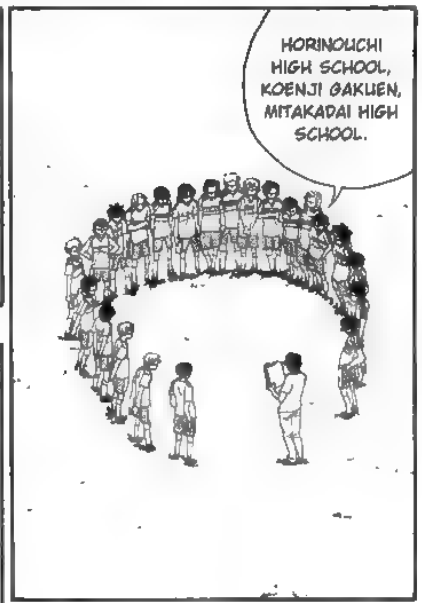

RU
SH

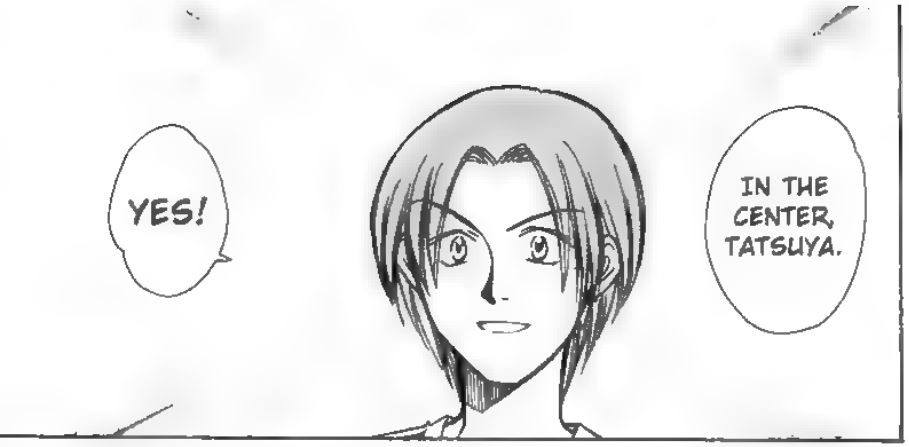
WHISH

THOOP



I'VE SET UP PRACTICE GAMES.




YES!
IN THE CENTER, TATSUYA.

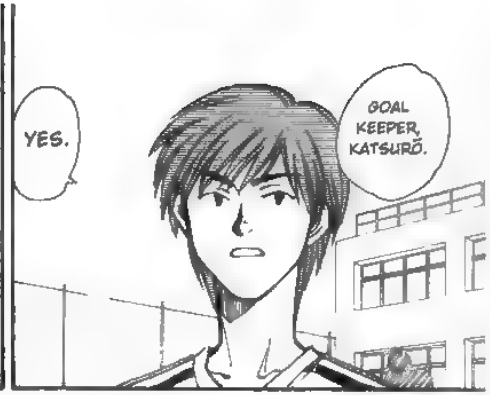
LEFT WING, TAKASHI.
OH, YEAH.

RIGHT FORWARD, SEIJI.
YES.

FORWARD: KAZUMA, RYOICHI.
AND THE SUBS ...
MIDFIELDER: ATSUSHI, HITOYOSHI.

DEFENDERS: KŌSUKE, KEISUKE, SEIGO.
...YŪICHIRŌ.

YES.
CENTER BACK, TSUBASA.


YES.
GOAL KEEPER, KATSURŌ.

RIGHT STOPPER, ROKUSUKE.
YES.

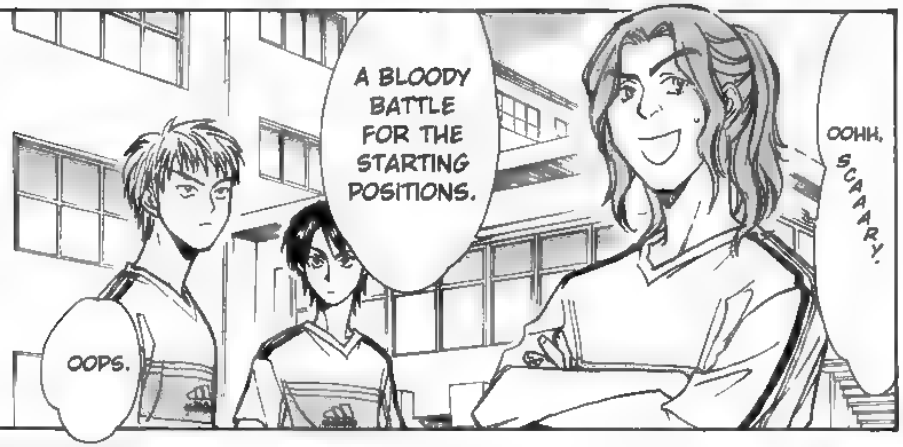
YES.
LEFT STOPPER, MASAKI.

RIGHT MIDFIELDER, SHIGERU.
YES.

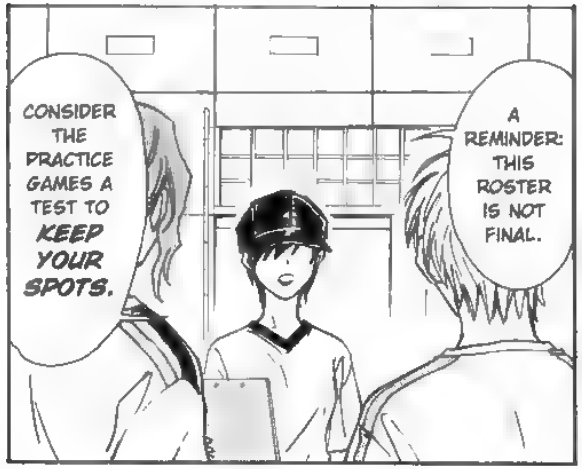
YES.
LEFT MIDFIELDER, YUTŌ.

RIGHT OUTSIDE MIDFIELDER, EISHI.
YES.

YES.
LEFT OUTSIDE MIDFIELDER, TAKI.


A BLOODY BATTLE FOR THE STARTING POSITIONS.
OOPS.
OOHH, SCAARY.

CHATTER
CHATTER
THE SAME IS TRUE FOR US...
...I GUESS.


CONSIDER THE PRACTICE GAMES A TEST TO KEEP YOUR SPOTS.
A REMINDER: THIS ROSTER IS NOT FINAL.
YES.
KEEPER: KENTARŌ.

10
NOW ...
...EACH OF YOU, PICK UP YOUR UNIFORMS.

TEPPEI. SHŌ.

UH... OKAY.
LINE REFEREES? US?

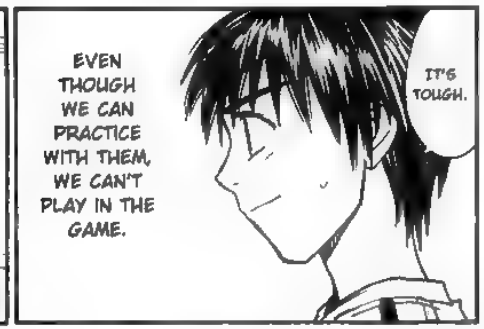
WILL YOU BE THE LINE REFEREES?
YOU TWO ARE FREE, AREN'T YOU?
GLARE

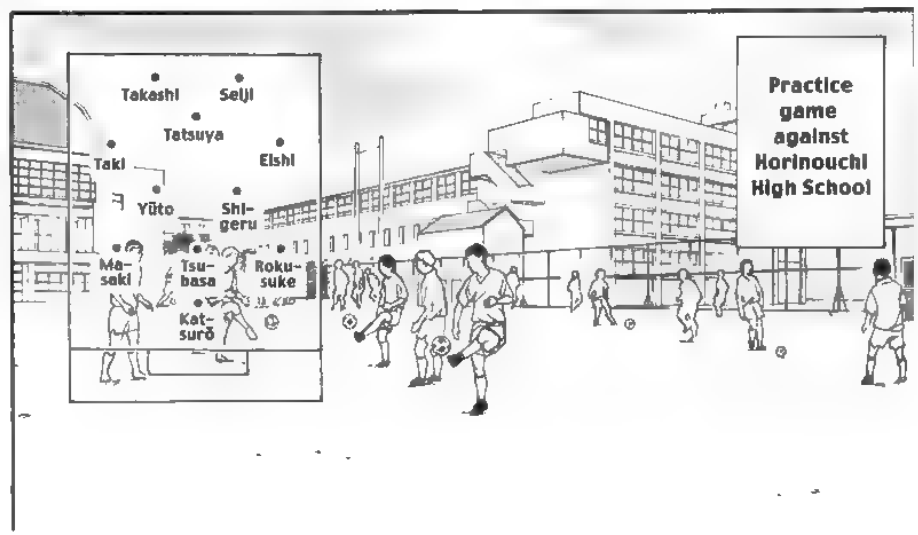
C'MON, TALK TO EACH OTHER!

GOOD GAME!
BOW.

EXTRA SUBSTITUTES... WHO ARE NOT GIVEN A UNIFORM... NOT EVEN REAL SUBSTITUTES.
IT'S SOMETHING I ALREADY KNEW, BUT...
WE'RE JUST EXTRAS, HUH?

IT WILL GET EVEN TOUGHER


EVEN THOUGH WE CAN PRACTICE WITH THEM, WE CAN'T PLAY IN THE GAME.
IT'S TOUGH.

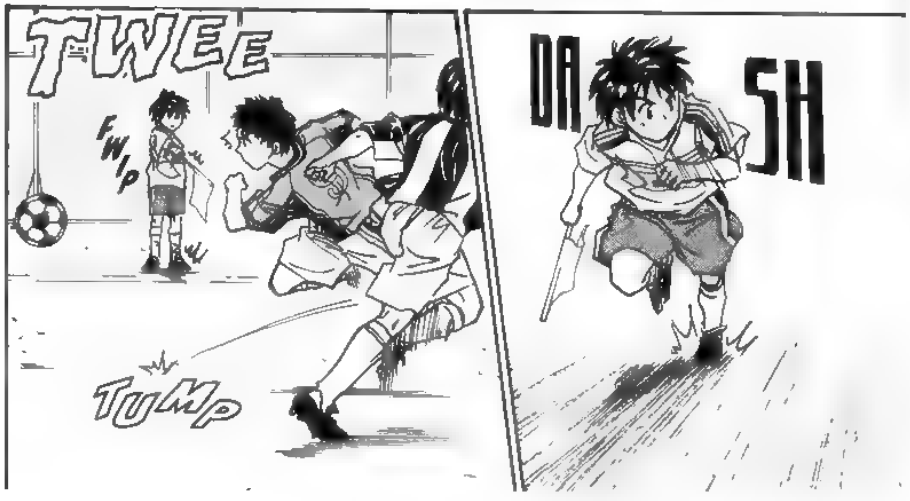

Takeshi
Seiji
Tatsuya
Taki
Eishi
Yūto
Shi-geru
Ma-saki
Tsu-basa
Roku-suke
Kat-surō
Practice game against Horinouchi High School

DASH
SIGH

SWAP

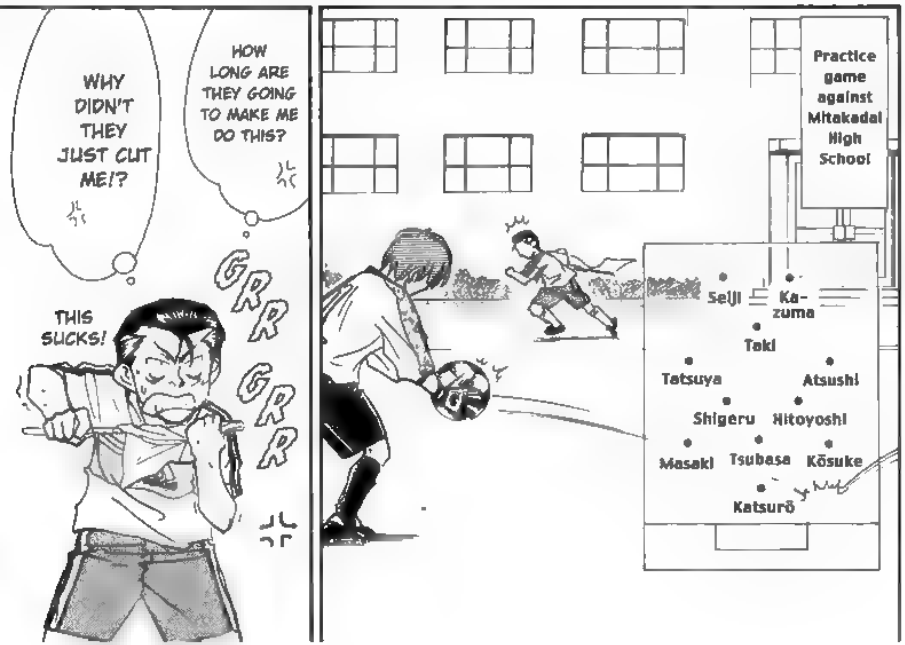
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S GETTING IN OUR WAY.
TALK TO EACH OTHER!
YOU'RE FALLING BACK!
FOOM
LINE!

...
BLINK BLINK


TWEE
FWIP
TUMP
DA SH

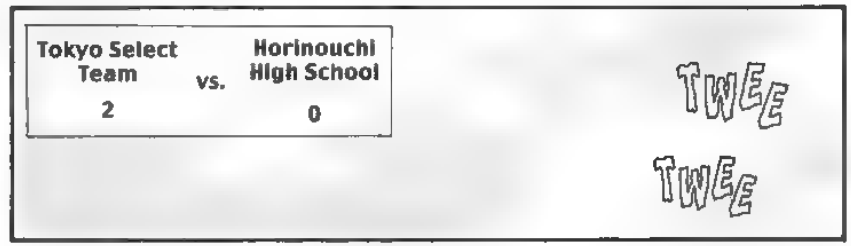
FOO
SH
Tokyo Select Team
3
vs.
Koenji Gakuen
1

DASH
DASH
DASH

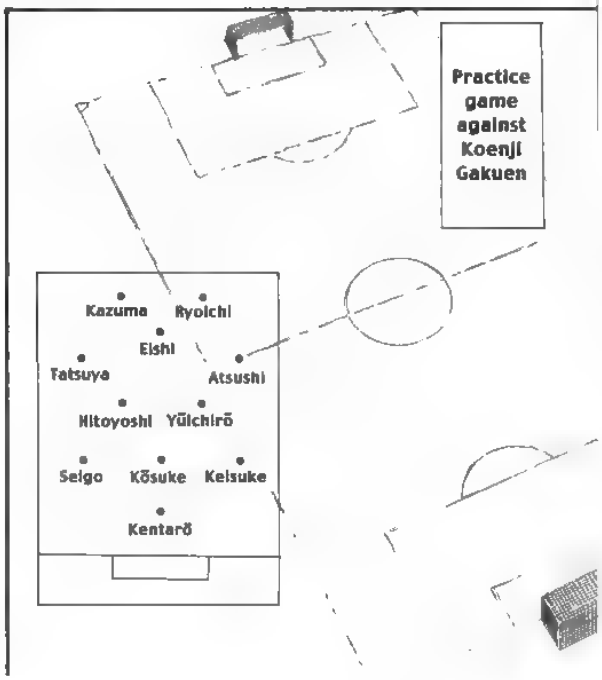

WHY DIDN'T THEY JUST CUT ME!?
HOW LONG ARE THEY GOING TO MAKE ME DO THIS?
THIS SUCKS!
GRR GRR GRR
Practice game against Mitakadai High School
Seiji
Ka-zuma
Taki
Tatsuya
Atsushi
Shigeru
Hitoyoshi
Masaki
Tsubasa
Kōsuke
Katsurō

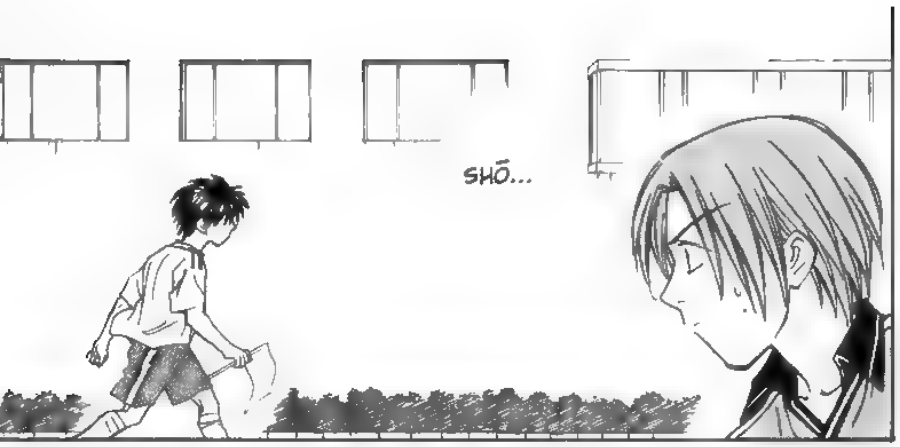
I DON'T SEE ANY PROBLEMS.

EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE TEAMWORK ISSUES BETWEEN THE MIDFIELDERS AND DEFENDERS
KATSURO IS DOING A GOOD JOB DEFENDING, AND THEY'RE NOT GIVING GROUND TO THE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM.


Tokyo Select Team
2
vs.
Horinouchi High School
0
TWEE
TWEE

DASH


Practice game against Koenji Gakuen
Kazuma
Ryoichi
Eishi
Tatsuya
Atsushi
Hitoyoshi
Yūichirō
Seigo
Kōsuke
Keisuke
Kentarō


SHŌ...

I WANT TO TOUCH THE BALL!
I WANT TO PLAY!

OH NO!!
HUH!
LINE REFEREE! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!!

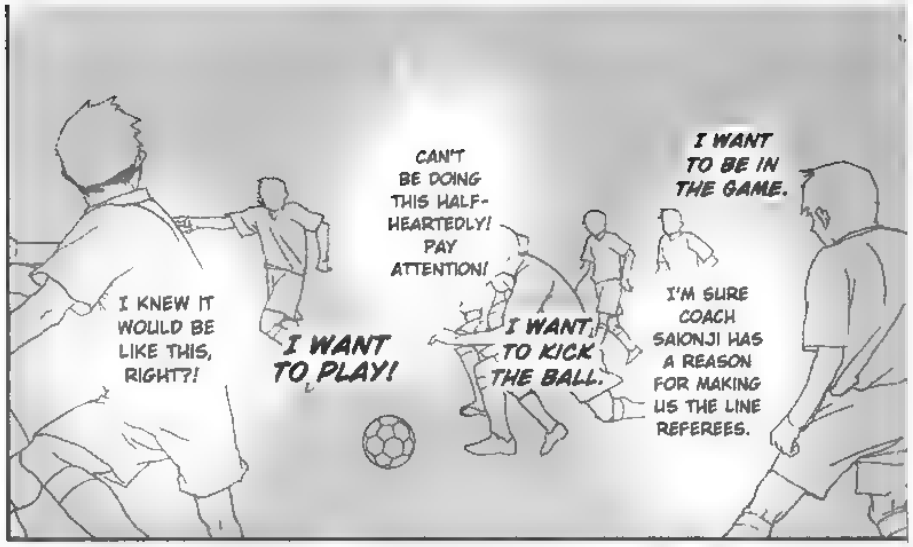
YOU WENT TOO FAR!
OOPS.
SKRRRRR
FLAP
FLAP
YIKES!

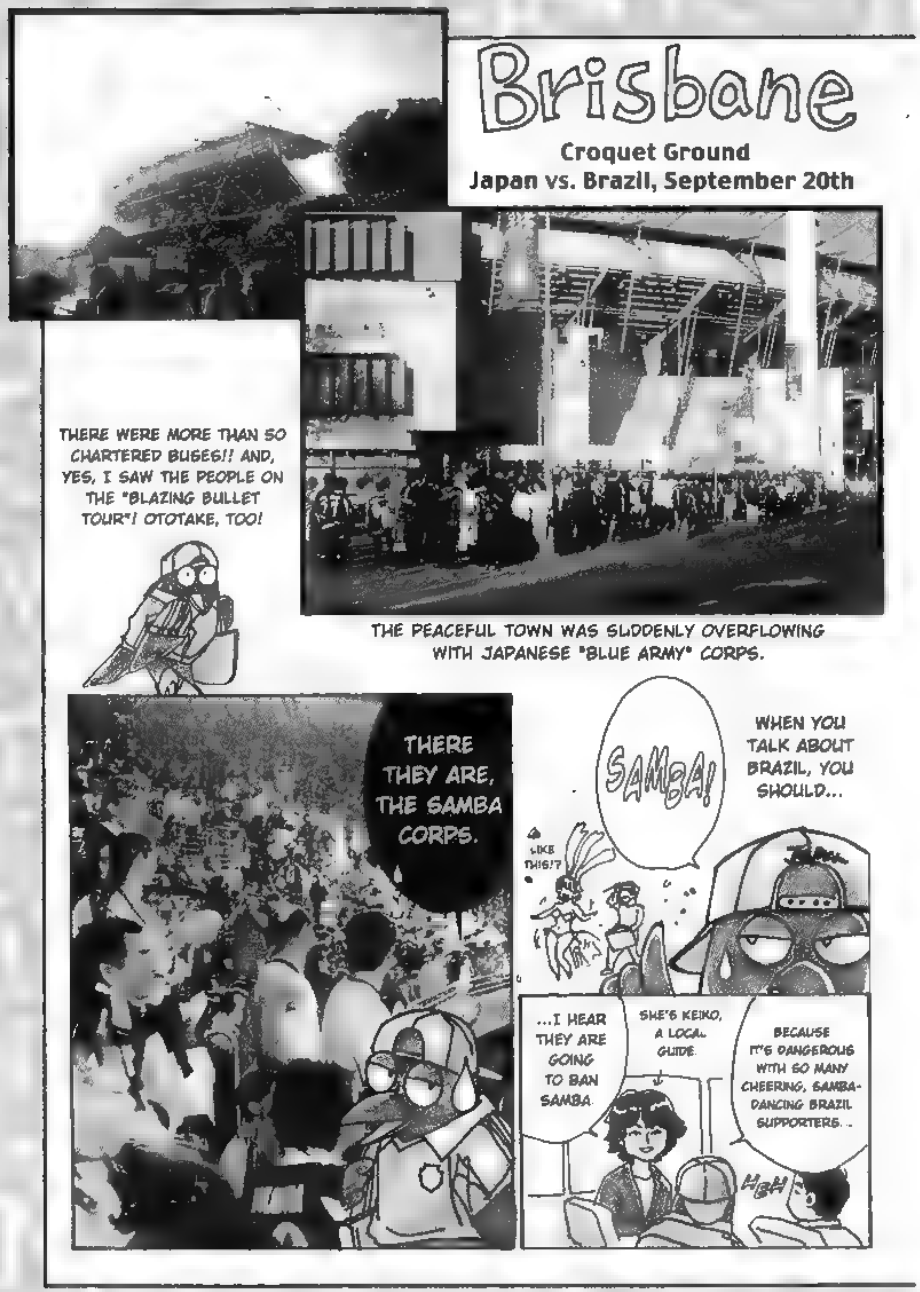
I CHOSE *THIS* INSTEAD OF JOSUI?

WHAT AM I *DOING* HERE?

...IT SEEMS LIKE I'M MILES AWAY.

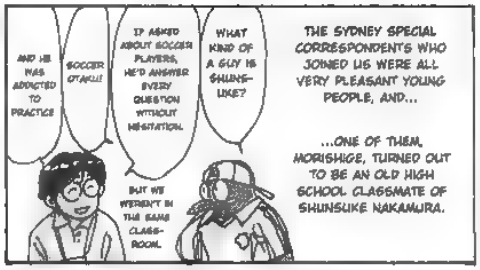
IT'S THE SAME AS WHEN I WAS AT MUSASHI-NOMORI.

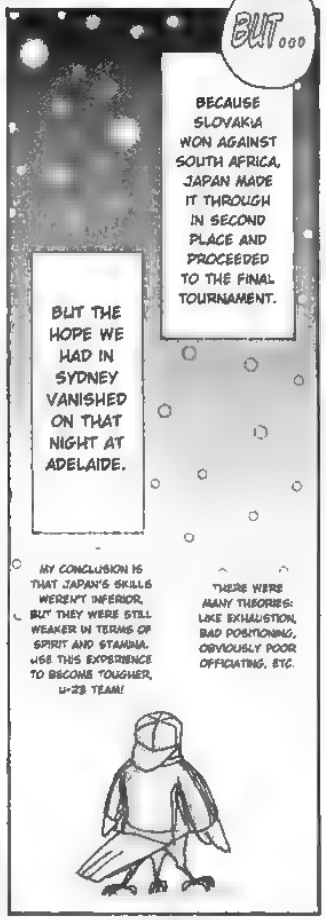

I KNEW IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS, RIGHT?!
I WANT TO PLAY!
CAN'T BE DOING THIS HALF-HEARTEDLY! PAY ATTENTION!
I WANT TO KICK THE BALL.
I WANT TO BE IN THE GAME.
I'M SURE COACH SAIONJI HAS A REASON FOR MAKING US THE LINE REFEREES.


Brisbane
Croquet Ground
Japan vs. Brazil, September 20th
THERE WERE MORE THAN 50 CHARTERED BUSES!! AND, YES, I SAW THE PEOPLE ON THE "BLAZING BULLET TOUR"! OTOTAKE, TOO!
THE PEACEFUL TOWN WAS SUDDENLY OVERFLOWING WITH JAPANESE "BLUE ARMY" CORPS.
THERE THEY ARE, THE SAMBA CORPS.
SAMBA!
LIKE THIS!?
WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT BRAZIL, YOU SHOULD...
...I HEAR THEY ARE GOING TO BAN SAMBA.
SHE'S KEIKO, A LOCAL GUIDE.
BECAUSE IT'S DANGEROUS WITH SO MANY CHEERING, SAMBA-DANCING BRAZIL SUPPORTERS. .
HeH

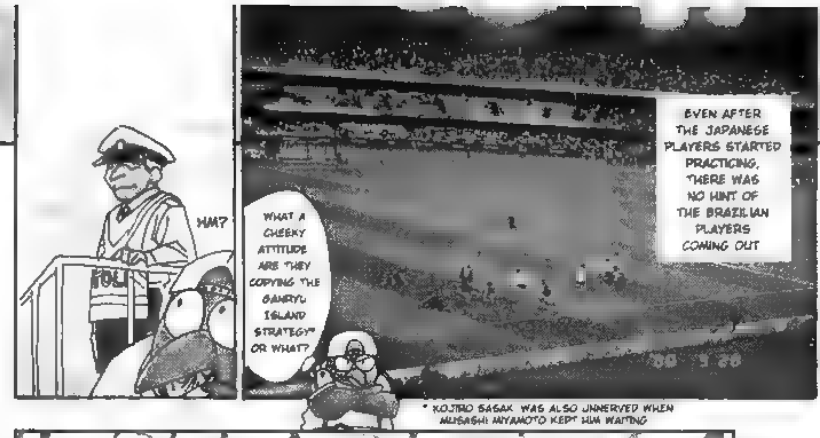
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT.
TAP TAP
BRAZIL? WHAT ABOUT BRAZIL?
TO MY SURPRISE, THE TV INSIDE THE AIRPORT WAS BROADCASTING THE GAME.
BRAVO
JAPAN GETS A SECOND GOAL!!
I WONDER HOW THE SLOVAKIA MATCH IS GOING.
SEPTEMBER 17TH.
AT AROUND THE TIME A GAME BETWEEN JAPAN AND SLOVAKIA WAS HELD IN DISTANT CANBERRA, HIGUCHI WAS AT NARITA AIRPORT.
YEAH!
YOU KNOW, A BIG CROWD IS GATHERED OVER THERE.
THEY'RE LOSING AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, 3 TO 1.
EH?!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
FEELING HAPPY AND BEWILDERED, WE SET OUT FOR BRISBANE.
IS BRAZIL IN BAD CONDITION? OR IS SOUTH AFRICA STRONG?
ROLL ROLL
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE TRAVELED ABROAD.
WHISTLE!
Cheering Strategy
MY EDITOR, AIDA.
HE LOVES GLUTTEN, AND HE EVEN APPEARED ON THE SHOW "SHONEN MANGA CHAMPIONSHIP."
AUSTRALIA
Brisbane
Sydney
Canberra
Adelaide
Primary - third game Japan vs. Brazil
Quarterfinals Japan vs. U.S.A.
Primary
First game - Japan vs. South Africa
Second game - Japan vs. Slovakia
WE'VE BEEN TO
AUSTRALIA

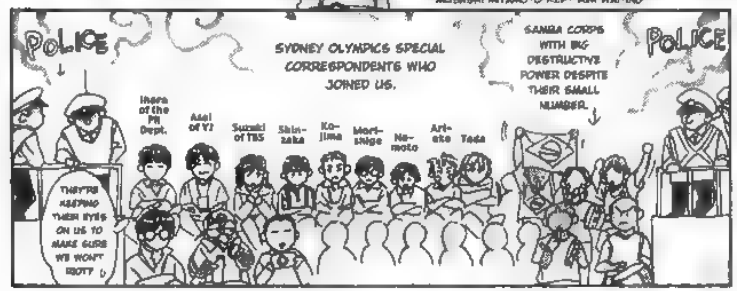
EXTRA

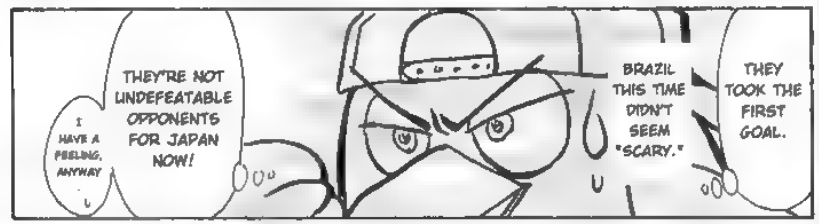

AND HE WAS ADDICTED TO PRACTICE
SOCCER OTAKU!
IF ASKED ABOUT SOCCER PLAYERS, HE'D ANSWER EVERY QUESTION WITHOUT HESITATION.
BUT WE WEREN'T IN THE SAME CLASS-ROOM.
WHAT KIND OF A GUY IS SHUNSUKE-LIKE?
THE SYDNEY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS WHO JOINED US WERE ALL VERY PLEASANT YOUNG PEOPLE, AND...
...ONE OF THEM, MORISHIGE, TURNED OUT TO BE AN OLD HIGH SCHOOL CLASSMATE OF SHUNSUKE NAKAMURA.


BUT...
BECAUSE SLOVAKIA WON AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, JAPAN MADE IT THROUGH IN SECOND PLACE AND PROCEEDED TO THE FINAL TOURNAMENT.
BUT THE HOPE WE HAD IN SYDNEY VANISHED ON THAT NIGHT AT ADELAIDE.
MY CONCLUSION IS THAT JAPAN'S SKILLS WEREN'T INFERIOR, BUT THEY WERE STILL WEAKER IN TERMS OF SPIRIT AND STAMINA. USE THIS EXPERIENCE TO BECOME TOUGHER, U-23 TEAM!
THERE WERE MANY THEORIES: LIKE EXHAUSTION, BAD POSITIONING, OBVIOUSLY POOR OFFICIATING, ETC.

THE END


HM?
WHAT A CHEEKY ATTITUDE ARE THEY COPYING THE GANRYU ISLAND STRATEGY* OR WHAT?
EVEN AFTER THE JAPANESE PLAYERS STARTED PRACTICING, THERE WAS NO HINT OF THE BRAZILIAN PLAYERS COMING OUT
* KOJIRO SASAK WAS ALSO UNNERVED WHEN MUSASHI MIYAMOTO KEPT HIM WAITING


POLICE
SYDNEY OLYMPICS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS WHO JOINED US.
SAMBA CORPS WITH BIG DESTRUCTIVE POWER DESPITE THEIR SMALL NUMBER.
POLICE
THEY'RE KEEPING THEIR EYES ON US TO MAKE SURE WE WON'T RIOT!
Ihara of the PR Dept.
Asai of YJ
Suzuki of TBS
Shin-zaka
Ko-jima
Mori-shige
No-moto
Arita
Tada
A TENSION, WHICH WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE TENSION OF THE GAME, ENVELOPED US.


I HAVE A FEELING, ANYWAY
THEY'RE NOT UNDEFEATABLE OPPONENTS FOR JAPAN NOW!
BRAZIL THIS TIME DIDN'T SEEM "SCARY."
THEY TOOK THE FIRST GOAL.

READ THIS WAY

HMM.
ANOTHER SERVING.
MORE, PLEASE.
IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
THAT'S D... DIFFERENT.
OTOME IS ON THE STAFF OF THE SPACE FOOD DEVELOPMENT TEAM AT NASA.
USUALLY, WE EAT STUFF LIKE THIS.
USUALLY, IT'S SIMPLER.
HEAD
A TYPE OF PARASITIC TAPEWORM. APPARENTLY, BIG ONES CAN GROW TO MORE THAN 28 FEET LONG.
TAP
LET ME EXPLAIN.
SADAKO THE TAPEWORM, INSIDE DAIROKU'S BELLY. IT'S CURRENTLY GROWN TO 7 FEET. DAIROKU IS A RESEARCHER AT A DRUG COMPANY.
ER... SADAKO?
SLAM
W C
WHOOSH
SA-DAKO! DON'T LEAVE.
W C
FOOD POISONING, MAYBE?
THE END.
MY INVENTION.
FUWA FAMILY WONDERLAND. IT LOOKS LIKE THERE IS MORE TO LEARN, BUT DUE TO THE PAGE LIMITATIONS, THIS IS ALL FOR NOW.
BOW

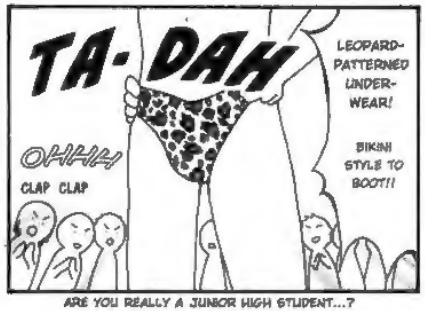
*MONTHLY JUMP NO. 6 "KABA WA NANDEMO SHITTERU CHIPPO KNOWS EVERYTHING?" IS USED AS A REFERENCE. ISHIZUKA SHINGI, THANKS!

Meet the Fuwas
LET'S BURST IN ON THE FUWAS, AND SEE WHAT'S FOR DINNER! THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE A SPACE CHURCH.
THIS!
WHAT IS YOUR RECOMMENDED DISH?
VISITING SECOND COUSIN, KYOSUKE KUROSU.
MOTHER, OTOME.
FATHER, DAIROKU.
GRANPS, DAISAKU.
FUWA FAMILY SPECIAL SOUP. V-MAX 2000. ITS INGREDIENTS ARE NATTO, YAM, HONEY, SESAME, CARROT, TOFU, EGG AND JUTE MALLOW.
AND TH...THIS IS?

No (Cry of the Maidens)

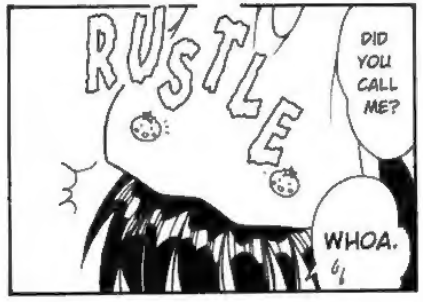
LOCK IT WITH THE KEY, WILL YOU?

Of course this is it.



ARE YOU REALLY A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT...?

Shige-san



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